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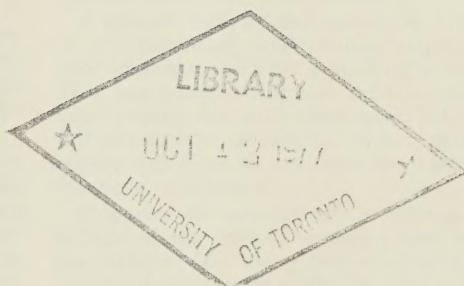
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Fourth Session, 30th Parliament

Tuesday, March 29, 1977

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, Q.C.

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, March 29, 1977, being the first day of the fourth session of the 30th Parliament of the province of Ontario for the dispatch of business pursuant to a proclamation of the Hon. P. M. McGibbon, Lieutenant Governor of the province.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1977

The House met at 3 p.m.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having entered the House and being seated upon the throne, was pleased to open the session with the following gracious speech.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Hon. P. M. McGibbon (Lieutenant Governor): Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker and members of the legislative assembly:

Monsieur le président, mesdames et messieurs les membres de l'assemblée législative:

I welcome you to the fourth session of the 30th Parliament of Ontario, in this the Silver Jubilee Year of our beloved sovereign.

Les vingt-cinq années depuis l'accession au trône de la Reine Elizabeth II ont été marquées par de nombreux changements en technologie de même que dans le développement économique et social. Au Canada, comme en Ontario, ces changements ont transformé notre mode et notre rythme de vie.

The faith and optimism which Ontarians share with respect to Canadian Confederation emerge from a deep conviction about Canada and about Ontario's place and role within Canada. It is not enough, however, for Canadians to face the challenges posed by Confederation simply with faith and hope. There must be a concrete programme in place which sustains national identity, broadens national dialogue and cements the ties of nationhood.

By sponsoring a forum on Canadian destiny in June, the government of Ontario will provide Canadians from all corners of our country an opportunity for constructive interchange and dialogue which, if pursued, should lead to greater understanding and sharing among regions and language groups.

The government will also take steps to increase the number of student and teacher exchanges that now take place between Ontario and the other provinces of this country.

We feel that this type of person-to-person contact and communication has tremendous value in furthering understanding. We shall therefore seek the co-operation of industry and organized labour to develop similar exchanges for people in other walks of Canadian life.

At the same time, my ministers will continue to co-operate with the federal government and with the other provinces in every way to ensure that no needless division separates us in seeking the common goal of national unity and reconciliation.

A citizen's faith in, and commitment to, his or her community and country remain the most important elements in building a nation. They are qualities that can make a national crisis manageable and temporary. But faith and commitment, if they are to be sustained, require that there be equitable distribution of economic opportunity.

It remains the government's conviction that, in light of the level of unemployment across the country and the presence of a strong provincial government in Quebec that is committed to the partition of our country, all federalists who hold fiscal responsibilities must do what they can to keep our economy on a path of honest and strong growth. Economic arguments may not dissuade the hard-core romantics of separatism but economic results are vital to the survival of this country.

Unfair concentration of economic power in the hands of a few, and denial of opportunity to some, through no fault of their own, represent a potential danger to the people of Ontario and to national unity. It is a threat against which the government must be prepared to act if the fundamental fairness that binds our nation together is to remain part of the self-view of all Canadians.

In this respect, it is important that Ontario should hold out to Canada and Canadians an example of the stability and fairness that typify the best of democratic society. We must offer an example of a province where personal success is attainable by all who are willing to make a fair contribution. We must

ensure, as the province of opportunity, that each citizen can participate fully in all aspects of life in Ontario, because we recognize equality of opportunity as the springboard to significant achievement.

[3:15]

This government firmly believes that the national anti-inflation programme should continue until the federal government and the provinces have developed a clear strategy to moderate inflation after the controls are lifted. Toward this goal, Ontario will set in motion a series of steps that will build upon the initiative begun with the recent Partnership for Prosperity conference. This exercise, so crucial to our future well-being, will involve extensive consultation with and the full co-operation of industry, labour and all segments of Ontario society—an example now also being pursued by the federal government.

Joint government-private sector relations cannot go very far, however, if our 11 senior governments are going off in as many different directions. Thus, we must re-establish a sense of shared national purpose, for without common national goals there cannot be confidence, and without confidence there cannot be growth.

Ontario's commitment to the AIB is also coupled with a commitment to ensure basic protections from unacceptable high costs for the citizens of our province. The rent control programme, initiated in 1975, will be continued until the scheduled end of the anti-inflation programme, and legislation to this effect will be presented to the House. Further, the government will present various policy options for continuing protection for tenants, to be implemented after the termination of the anti-inflation programme.

It is clear, however, that beyond the positive protection that it offers for tenants, rent control acts as a negative force in the drive to create new rental units in significant numbers. Only when more rental accommodation is available can market forces again take over and rent controls be eliminated. The Ministry of Housing will therefore introduce a specific programme to stimulate rental construction in areas of low vacancy. It is the government's belief that this incentive will markedly increase rental supply, thereby easing the pressure on rents in the future.

Further, working in close co-operation with federal and municipal governments, my government will continue to increase the amount of rental housing for senior citizens and families of low income. Such efforts in the rental field will complement the recently announced federal-provincial AHOP-HOME

programme, which now places home ownership within the reach of families of very moderate income.

As well, a series of legislative measures will be introduced to improve and secure the rights of condominium owners, both as purchasers and as residents.

To ensure full opportunity and a bright future for our people we need to expand the job-creating sectors of the Ontario and national economies. Concerted and intensive efforts must be made to reverse current high levels of unemployment.

To this end, it is hoped that significant assistance will be furnished through the federal budget to be presented on March 31. In turn, Ontario will complement federal actions intended to create employment, and develop our own fiscal policy to stimulate the economy and expand the province's work force.

An additional stimulus to the provision of employment expansion opportunities is the continuing success of this province in restraining government spending. This limits government demand on private capital which can be directed toward the generation of jobs and growth.

The particular unfairness of national unemployment, to young people especially, and to our population as a whole, requires a specific government response.

Special funding to create jobs in both the private and public sectors will be a feature of the new Ontario budget. This initiative will place particular emphasis on the needs of young people who bear an unbalanced proportion of overall unemployment in Canada.

In its commitment to equality of economic opportunity for all Ontarians, the government will focus special attention on northern and eastern areas of the province.

Legislation will be presented to confirm the establishment of the new Ministry of Northern Affairs which will deal with the economic and social development of Ontario's northern regions.

The fundamental aim of the government's overall northern programme is to continue to increase the standard of living of northern residents. This government opposes any view that would commit the people of northern Ontario to economic disadvantage through an unreasonable and unthinking rejection of economic development. My government believes accommodations can and must be made to protect our recreational and natural heritage without condemning part of our population to economic inequality.

In this vein, the government will present amendments to The Environmental Assessment Act, as recommended by Mr. Justice Hartt, to assist in his examination into the feasibility of a major forest development in northwestern Ontario. This review will pay particular attention to native, environmental and social considerations. At the same time, steps will be taken by my government to examine and report on such development potential as might reasonably and responsibly be explored to the benefit not only of the people of the north, but of all of Ontario.

Increased efforts to reforest Crown lands, where increased harvesting is permitted, will ensure the perpetual availability of renewable timber resources and continued economic prosperity in the north.

The Ontario Northland Transportation Commission will assume a new role in the development of tourism in northern Ontario. ONTC and the Ministry of Industry and Tourism will plan and promote new recreational attractions in conjunction with those of established tourism interests, local councils and local business. The commission's acquisition of four modern unit trains and delivery of a seventh aircraft to norOntair this spring are expected to figure largely in these efforts.

The impetus for effective economic development east of Metropolitan Toronto and in eastern Ontario will be provided by locating significant government operations in selected areas. Details will be presented to the House early in the session.

In recent years, my government has undertaken various measures to establish a more open and responsive relationship with the people of Ontario. In accepting the recommendations of the select committee of the Legislature on the Camp commission, the government has paved the way for the most open and balanced legislative forum in Canada. It is a forum whose expanded workload and openness require particular co-operation from all sides of the House. Sitzings of the assembly are already televised and filmed by the media. The Ombudsman's access to documentation on behalf of the citizens of our province is an example of openness unprecedented in Canadian parliamentary institutions.

In order that further progress might be made in broadening the processes of government and information-sharing and in order that this progress might be pursued with a proper concern for personal privacy, a commission on freedom of information and individual privacy will be named to study and

recommend to the Legislature during this session appropriate means of ensuring both.

As further evidence of the government's intention to follow this direction, a new Audit Act will be introduced giving the Provincial Auditor extensive new powers in serving the public interest through greater scrutiny of government expenditures and by ensuring internal efficiency and economy. The recommendations of a committee on customer service, which have already been made public, will be acted on through a special task force of senior government officials and the appointment of a new customer service co-ordinator. The major objectives of this programme are the simplification of government procedures and the improvement of public service sensitivity to the citizens of Ontario.

As citizens have a right to open and responsive government, they have also a right to due process of law and effective administration of justice. The Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) will present The Courts Administration Act to initiate a new approach to judicial administration. The Act will give appropriate recognition to the fundamental principles of judicial independence and ministerial accountability to the public. Family law legislation brought forward initially during the last session will be reintroduced.

You will be asked to consider amendments to The Police Act. This step follows considerable consultation with police commissions, police forces and representatives of various groups, and is intended to establish a code of behaviour and complaint procedures that will protect both the general citizenry and members of our police forces.

The Ministry of Education will launch three significant initiatives related to language instruction. The first will improve opportunities for young people to learn French as a second language. To achieve this, school boards will be offered increased financial incentives to encourage them to improve and extend French language instruction programmes in elementary schools across Ontario.

Ontario's French language education system now serves, in 369 French language schools, 106,000 students whose first language is French. The government reaffirms its commitment to this system, and will introduce special legislation to guarantee establishment of a French language secondary school in Essex county.

Increased emphasis on language opportunities will be reflected in innovations that

recognize the multicultural nature of our population. More resources will be available for intensive English language instruction for children of recent immigrants.

At the same time, while recognizing that French and English are the languages of instruction in Ontario's schools, a heritage language programme will be supported, as a continuing education offering, to help Ontario's many ethnic groups retain a knowledge of their mother tongues and continuing appreciation of their cultural backgrounds. The government accepts and values the multicultural character of our province, and believes that encouraging children to understand the language and culture of their parents contributes to the quality of both education and family life.

In the past decade, Ontario has seen a rapid growth of special services for children and youth. This province stands second to none in the number, variety and quality of services that now exist.

The government intends to unify these programmes so that the needs of individual children will be better served. More effective co-ordination will be achieved through legislation to consolidate provincial services for children with special needs within a single, integrated organization in the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Special education services will continue to be provided by the Ministry of Education and school boards.

In addition, provision will be made for common licensing requirements, operating standards, and funding arrangements for group homes, youth residences, children's institutions and related services.

My government reaffirms that it is a primary responsibility of parents to care for their children, who should remain in their own homes wherever possible. To this end, the new children's division will encourage the development of family support services. It thus follows that the responsibility for developing appropriate services for the care of children with special needs should rest with local communities. Accordingly, legislation will be introduced to give local governments the authority and resources to ensure the provision of special services for their own children.

The health and safety of working men and women in Ontario remain important priorities for my government. New legislation will be introduced, incorporating all occupational health and safety matters in one statute. The Ministry of Labour will hold consultations with interested parties with the

aim of accommodating in the legislation the needs and concerns of the entire community. [3:30]

The aspect of prevention in other health and safety programmes cannot be overstated. Our seatbelt and speed limit regulations have saved many lives, prevented thousands of serious injuries and saved society much grief and millions of dollars in lost work and hospitalization. Avoiding death and carnage on the highways is a continuing concern of the government and one which all Ontarians share.

During the session legislation will be introduced to establish a probationary period for new drivers, regardless of age. Further changes will await the report of the select committee on highway safety.

Because the evidence is clear that the most effective health programmes are those that place their emphasis on prevention, my government will take steps, through the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, to introduce a province-wide physical fitness programme designed to encourage Ontarians to care about their health and well-being and to avoid, through that care, unnecessary hospitalization, illness and hardship.

My government's continuing commitment to clean air and water and a healthy environment will be advanced through amendments to The Environmental Protection Act, The Ontario Water Resources Act and The Pesticides Act.

A central unit will be established for monitoring, research and control of hazardous chemicals, such as PCBs, mercury and lead.

An inventory of all abandoned or inactive mine operations which are sources of contamination will be compiled, and responsibility for cleanup will be determined and pursued. Where ownership or responsibility cannot be established, provincial funds will be used for the cleanup.

The government will provide assistance with respect to the increasing cost of municipal services to meet environmental needs. A particular priority, concurrent with my government's commitment to the east and the north, will be afforded through servicing assistance to these areas. Amendments to legislation will provide municipalities with provincial financing and assistance for alternatives to traditional treatment systems, particularly in smaller communities.

Ontarians can take pride and satisfaction from the development of nuclear power in our province, a source on which we will be increasingly dependent in the short term. The

Pickering generating station is one of the safest, most efficient and cost-effective energy producing facilities in the world. The Bruce generating plant, now under construction, is among the additional nuclear projects already contributing to our energy supply.

However, it is clear that in the long term it will be increasingly difficult to rely solely on nuclear energy or fossil fuels for our total energy requirements. A planning process is needed now for the transition to other energy sources. A report will be placed before the House indicating the types of changes envisioned. Greater emphasis will be placed on research, development and demonstration of renewable forms of energy.

The government is committed to a war on waste at every level of energy utilization, from large scale activities such as those related to transportation, industrial and community use, to daily use by the individual home or apartment dweller. The ability to provide improved standards of living for an expanding population will depend on the degree to which the people of Ontario share in this commitment.

While my government has shown an on-going interest in the growth and prosperity of small businesses, it is recognized that further special efforts are required. For this reason, an Ontario advisory committee on small business will be established to serve as a forum for small business interests and to make recommendations on improving their management, financial and marketing capabilities.

In addition, the government will launch a small business management development programme, and will work with universities involved in the small business assistance programme to offer consulting help on a year-round basis.

[The Ontario Development Corporation will expand its assistance to small business firms by lowering its lending rate to up to two per cent below the basic rate for loans up to \$200,000, and by raising the current loan limits.

Protections for franchise holders, which will help encourage investment in small business will form part of a new Franchise Act.

A new Securities Act will simplify securities regulations and provide better information and more protection for public investors.

The Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations will undertake a major educational programme. This will include the establishment of a consumer education resource

centre, a series of consumer information programmes through the facilities of TV Ontario, and increased emphasis on consumer information material.]

Tourism, a major earner of foreign currency for Canada, employs over 200,000 people in Ontario's hospitality industry. To help redress the national tourism balance of payments deficit that has recently developed, greater emphasis will be placed on promotional activities for vacations in Ontario.

The government will determine the feasibility of a hospitality institute which would seek to improve standards, level of services and management within the 15,000 small businesses in Ontario's tourism industry.

Economic growth and industrial stability are interdependent. The Ministry of Labour will promote new initiatives in labour-management co-operation, including improvements in conciliation and mediation services, and the appointment of a representative committee to advise on collective bargaining matters and other issues of common concern.

The real guarantee of economic security and advancement for the unionized and other working men and women of Ontario remains in the vitality and dynamism of a well functioning free enterprise economy, stimulated by investment, confidence and faith in the stability and fairness of Ontario's society and institutions.

Legislation will be reintroduced for province-wide, single-trade bargaining in certain sectors of the construction industry. This reform, which will reduce the number of bargaining situations from over 200 to about 20, should do much to promote stability in this vital sector of the economy.

A financial review of the operations of the Workmen's Compensation Board and an analysis of the benefit levels are currently in progress. Once they are completed, the government will introduce legislation to adjust benefits to meet inflationary stresses and the legitimate needs of disabled workmen and others who benefit now from one of the most generous and comprehensive compensation schemes in the free world.

The land we live on is a fundamental and finite resource, a fact that makes the responsibility of government to protect and husband its use a matter of paramount importance. Measures will, therefore, be taken to provide a clear focus and strong co-ordinating function for the development of land use policies,

including the protection of our agricultural food lands.

The Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Brunelle) will be given a strengthened mandate to co-ordinate the land use policies of ministries and to expedite the resolution of land use issues. Administrative responsibilities will remain with respective ministries and with municipalities but central assessment and co-ordination at the provincial level will assure the best uses for our land through an overview of individual, community and provincial interests which will be implemented through the process of official plan approvals.

In particular, the government will resist pressures to prejudice the land equity of the farming community. Within the context of the food land guidelines brought down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, which serve to protect, by definition, the food land needs of Ontario, farmers cannot be singled out as the target of any unfair land freeze schemes. My government firmly believes that the present and future needs for food lands can be met in Ontario without inequitably prejudicing the farming community.

In this session, the government will reinforce its programmes to increase agricultural productivity with legislation to limit topsoil removal from prime agricultural lands, and with plans to return significant acreages to full production.

The maintenance of valuable food lands in agricultural production merits an accompanying and increased consumer loyalty toward Ontario food products. Marketing strategies and a promotional campaign for Ontario foods will be pursued in both domestic and export markets to stimulate purchases of high quality Ontario agricultural produce.

Ontario has enjoyed massive increases in per acre production over the last 10 years—increases which have produced a greater security of food supply than has ever been achieved in such a highly urbanized society. Initiatives under the Young Farmer programme, Venture Capital programme and others will enhance the profitability of farming in Ontario and underline the government's endorsement of the role of free enterprise, sound management and personal initiative in the economic structure of family farming in Ontario.

Many current concerns about future economic security centre on private and public pension plans, their administration and the use being made of these resources.

The government will appoint a royal commission on pension plans to make an in-depth

review and assessment of pension plan administration throughout Ontario. This step will be taken with a view to necessary changes or other approaches to ensure that contributors receive fair benefit and protection.

The question of pensions is but one aspect of the concern of our society for citizens in their retirement years. My ministry will continue to give high priority to the needs of the aging population and will increase the number of assessment and placement services to ensure that senior citizens receive care appropriate to their needs.

In particular, more funds will be designated for home care and home support services so that more of our senior citizens may remain in their own homes and avoid unnecessary institutionalization. Efforts will be made to link these funds to involvement by young people in senior service programme initiatives, thus providing them with employment and service opportunities while adding to the security and well-being of older members of our society.

In all, the wide-ranging programme placed before this assembly is directed at building a sense of promise and of national pride in Ontarians stemming from a fair and balanced society and from the opportunities we have within that society. It is a programme of confidence in the future of our province and nation. It seeks economic stability and the protection of our natural and human resources. It is geared toward achieving growth and generating employment. It is a programme aimed at distributing economic opportunity fairly throughout Ontario. With dependable legislative co-operation, it can be achieved by this assembly by the end of this present year.

My government's programme provides for every Ontarian the opportunity to live in freedom, work in peace and attain self-fulfillment and satisfaction. It assures our people that their Ontario, our Ontario, affords them the capacity to shape their own particular and unique part of the Canadian dream in confidence, security and freedom.

Honourable members, I now leave you to the discharge of your duties. May Divine Providence guide you in your deliberations.

God bless the Queen and Canada.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was then pleased to retire from the chamber.

[3:45]

Mr. Speaker: To prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of Her Honour's speech, which I will now read.

(Reading dispensed with.)

TRUSTEE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved first reading of Bill 1, An Act to amend The Trustee Act.

Motion agreed to.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Welch moved first reading of Bill 2, An Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act.

Motion agreed to.

NATURAL DEATH ACT

Mr. Maeck moved first reading of Bill 3, An Act respecting the Withholding or Withdrawal of Treatment where Death is Inevitable.

Motion agreed to.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Mr. Lawlor moved first reading of Bill 4, An Act to provide for Freedom of Information.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lawlor: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to provide members of the public with access to government information. The bill is designed to allow maximum accessibility to government documents while, at the same time, recognizing that it is in the public interest that certain types of information not be disclosed. Where a disagreement arises as to whether or not certain information should be disclosed, the bill provides a mechanism for resolving the dispute and as an addendum it is a spur to this spurious commission that the government has appointed.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to this House be taken into consideration on Friday next.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that tomorrow, Wednesday, the House will not sit in the chamber but will sit on Wednesday, April 6; and that on succeeding Wednesdays, subject

to further order, the House will not sit in the chamber.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Davis moved that an humble address be presented to Her Majesty, the Queen, in the following words:

"To the Queen's most Excellent Majesty:

"Most Gracious Sovereign:

"We, Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, now in session, beg to extend to Your Majesty, on the completion of the 25th year of your reign, our most sincere congratulations, and reaffirm to Your Majesty the continuing warm respect and affection in which you are held by your subjects in Ontario.

"A l'occasion des visites de Votre Majesté et des autres membres de la famille royale, nous avons eu l'insigne privilège de vous souhaiter la bienvenue dans votre province de l'Ontario et n'avons jamais manqué de bénéficier de vos gracieux conseils et du charme de votre présence.

"May Divine Providence sustain Your Majesty in health and happiness during a long and glorious reign to the benefit of your people."

That the said address be engrossed and presented by Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the assembly, to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor for transmission to Her Majesty.

Mr. Lewis: Je me lève avec grand plaisir pour seconder cette déclaration de loyauté et respect envers Sa Majesté la Reine.

I do so with particular enthusiasm because it gives those of us on this side of the House the opportunity to affirm that exquisite phrase Her Majesty's loyal opposition.

I will readily admit that those of us in the New Democratic Party are not so widely recognized as extroverted monarchists, but we do have deep and abiding loyalties, with some history as well. I thought I might point out to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the members of the House that we probably have in this caucus the only sitting member of the assembly who was indeed present at the place of the coronation some 25 years ago. Our honourable colleague, the member for Peterborough (Ms. Sandeman), then a young girl at school in London, was there on the sidewalk of the processional route in the driving rain for 18 hours, huddled under her sleeping bag, waiting to catch a glimpse of the procession and the ultimate coronation.

I simply bring this to your attention, Mr. Speaker, to demonstrate that for more than

a quarter of a century there has been this inextinguishable bond between socialism and royalty. I therefore second the address with great enthusiasm.

Mr. S. Smith: Monsieur l'orateur, je veux prendre l'occasion moi aussi pour parler de la part de mes collègues ici dans notre parti pour donner notre appui à cette résolution.

I would like to say as well on this occasion that, although he was not there as a school girl or as a school boy, our young member, the hon. member for Wellington South (Mr. Worton), while mayor of Guelph was present at that same happy occasion. Whether he was indeed huddled on a blanket or a sleeping bag is not recorded, at least in the annals in Guelph, but he did find himself on the sidewalk in one form or another.

[4:00]

On a more serious note, Mr. Speaker, I think that at a time when our country is beset with regional interests, with people beginning to draw inward and wonder about the dedication that exists in the country—a dedication that I think all of us in Ontario are very confident about; a dedication to a great country from sea to sea—surely we must realize that the monarchy is, indeed, one of the genuine unifying influences that this country has. I think that in wartime and in peace, both the institution of the

monarchy and the person of the Sovereign have been a great inspiration to all of us and may they long continue to be.

We are very happy to join with both other parties in giving our support to this excellent motion.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker then led the House in singing God Save the Queen.

Mr. Speaker: I have made arrangements to be received by the Lieutenant Governor tomorrow morning to present this address to Her Honour for transmission to Her Majesty the Queen. Her Honour has asked me to extend to all members and their spouses, and the media, a welcome to this brief ceremony which will be held in the music room of the Lieutenant Governor's suite at 11 a.m.

I have asked that the member for Ottawa West (Mr. Morrow) and the member for Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) accompany me, since they are the only members in the House who were members at the time of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne.

Hon. Mr. Davis moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

APPENDIX

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE
LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

(125 members)

Fourth Session of the 30th Parliament

Speaker: Hon. Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk of the House: Roderick Lewis, QC

Member	Constituency	Party
Angus, I.	Fort William	NDP
Auld, Hon. J. A. C.	Leeds	PC
Bain, R.	Timiskaming	NDP
Belanger, J. A.	Prescott and Russell	PC
Bennett, Hon. C.	Ottawa South	PC
Bernier, Hon. L.	Kenora	PC
Birch, Hon. M.	Scarborough East	PC
Bounsall, E. J.	Windsor-Sandwich	NDP
Breaugh, M.	Oshawa	NDP
Breithaupt, J. R.	Kitchener	L
Brunelle, Hon. R.	Cochrane North	PC
Bullbrook, J. E.	Sarnia	L
Burr, F. A.	Windsor-Riverside	NDP
Bryden, M.	Beaches-Woodbine	NDP
Campbell, M.	St. George	L
Cassidy, M.	Ottawa Centre	NDP
Conway, S.	Renfrew North	L
Cunningham, E.	Wentworth North	L
Davidson, M.	Cambridge	NDP
Davis, Hon. W. G.	Brampton	PC
Davison, M.	Hamilton Centre	NDP
Deans, I.	Wentworth	NDP
di Santo, O.	Downsview	NDP
Drea, F.	Scarborough Centre	PC
Dukszta, J.	Parkdale	NDP
Eakins, J.	Victoria-Haliburton	L
Eaton, R. G.	Middlesex	PC
Edighoffer, H.	Perth	L
Evans, D. A.	Simcoe Centre	PC
Ferrier, W.	Cochrane South	NDP
Ferris, J. P.	London South	L
Foulds, J. F.	Port Arthur	NDP
Gaunt, M.	Huron-Bruce	L
Germa, M. C.	Sudbury	NDP
Gigantes, E.	Carleton East	NDP
Givens, P. G.	Armourdale	L
Godfrey, C.	Durham West	NDP
Good, E.R.	Waterloo North	L
Grande, A.	Oakwood	NDP
Gregory, M. E. C.	Mississauga East	PC
Grossman, L.	St. Andrew-St. Patrick	PC
Haggerty, R.	Erie	L
Hall, R.	Lincoln	L
Handleman, Hon. S. B.	Carleton	PC

Member	Constituency	Party
Henderson, Hon. L. C.	Lambton	PC
Hodgson, W.	York North	PC
Irvine, D. R.	Carleton-Grenville	PC
Johnson, J.	Wellington-Dufferin-Peel	PC
Johnston, R. M.	St. Catharines	PC
Jones, T.	Mississauga North	PC
Kennedy, R. D.	Mississauga South	PC
Kerr, Hon. G. A.	Burlington South	PC
Kerrio, V.	Niagara Falls	L
Lane, J.	Algoma-Manitoulin	PC
Laughren, F.	Nickel Belt	NDP
Lawlor, P. D.	Lakeshore	NDP
Leluk, N.G.	York West	PC
Lewis, S.	Scarborough West	NDP
Lupusella, A.	Dovercourt	NDP
MacBeth, Hon. J. P.	Humber	PC
MacDonald, D. C.	York South	NDP
Mackenzie, R.	Hamilton East	NDP
Maeck, L.	Parry Sound	PC
Makarchuk, M.	Brantford	NDP
Mancini, R.	Essex South	L
Martel, E. W.	Sudbury East	NDP
McCague, G.	Dufferin-Simcoe	PC
McClellan, R.	Bellwoods	NDP
McEwen, J. E.	Frontenac-Addington	L
McKeough, Hon. W. D.	Chatham-Kent	PC
McKessock, R.	Grey	L
McMurtry, Hon. R.	Eglinton	PC
McNeil, R. K.	Elgin	PC
Meen, Hon. A. K.	York East	PC
Miller, Hon. F. S.	Muskoka	PC
Miller, G. I.	Haldimand-Norfolk	L
Moffatt, D.	Durham East	NDP
Morrow, D. H.	Ottawa West	PC
Newman, B.	Windsor-Walkerville	L
Newman, Hon. W.	Durham-York	PC
Nixon, R. F.	Brant-Oxford-Norfolk	L
Norton, Hon. K.	Kingston and the Islands	PC
O'Neil, H.	Quinte	L
Parrott, Hon. H. C.	Oxford	PC
Peterson, D.	London Centre	L
Philip, E.	Etobicoke	NDP
Reed, J.	Halton-Burlington	L
Reid, T. P.	Rainy River	L
Renwick, J. A.	Riverdale	NDP
Rhodes, Hon. J. R.	Sault Ste. Marie	PC
Riddell, J.	Huron-Middlesex	L
Rollins, C. T.	Hastings-Peterborough	PC
Rowe, Hon. R. D.	Northumberland	PC
Roy, A. J.	Ottawa East	L
Ruston, R. F.	Essex North	L
Samis, G.	Cornwall	NDP
Sandeman, G.	Peterborough	NDP

Member	Constituency	Party
Sargent, E.	Grey-Bruce	L
Scrivener, Hon. M.	St. David	PC
Shore, M.	London North	PC
Singer, V. M.	Wilson Heights	L
Smith, G. E.	Simcoe East	PC
Smith, Hon. J. R.	Hamilton Mountain	PC
Smith, R. S.	Nipissing	L
Smith, S.	Hamilton West	L
Snow, Hon. J. W.	Oakville	PC
Spence, J. P.	Kent-Elgin	L
Stephenson, Hon. B.	York Mills	PC
Stokes, J. E.	Lake Nipigon	NDP
Stong, A.	York Centre	L
Swart, M.	Welland-Thorold	NDP
Sweeney, J.	Kitchener-Wilmot	L
Taylor, Hon. J. A.	Prince Edward-Lennox	PC
Timbrell, Hon. D. R.	Don Mills	PC
Villeneuve, O. F.	Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry	PC
Warner, D.	Scarborough-Ellesmere	NDP
Welch, Hon. R.	Brock	PC
Wells, Hon. T. L.	Scarborough North	PC
Wildman, B.	Algoma	NDP
Williams, J.	Oriole	PC
Wiseman, D. J.	Lanark	PC
Worton, H.	Wellington South	L
Yakabuski, P. J.	Renfrew South	PC
Young, F.	Yorkview	NDP
Ziemba, E.	High Park-Swansea	NDP

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Mr. P. J. Yakubski	Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources

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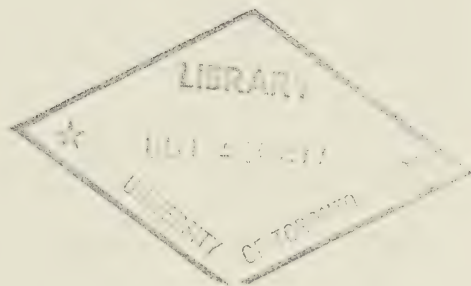
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Legislature of Ontario Debates

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Daily Edition



Fourth Session, 30th Parliament
Thursday, March 31, 1977

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1977

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, I have here a message from the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor signed by her own hand.

Mr. Speaker: By her own hand, P. M. McGibbon, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1978, and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly, Toronto, March 31, 1977.

Statements by the ministry.

ONTARIO FINANCES

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I'm tabling today—and I believe they are now being placed in the members' mailboxes—copies of a special issue of Ontario Finances, reporting on the fourth-quarter performance of the 1976 budget. It includes a comparison of the actual operating results for the first 11 months of this fiscal year, with those for the same period in 1975-76. These interim figures for 1976-77 will be the figures published in the 1977 budget; the final figures for 1976-77 will be reported as usual in the 1976 financial report.

Net cash requirements for 1976-77 are now projected at \$1,388 million, or \$158 million higher than the original budget. This increase in net cash requirements is entirely due to lower than anticipated revenues.

Some of the highlights of the report: Expenditures are \$11 million below the original budget target of \$12,576 million. In-year shifts in spending plans have been accomplished to finance \$372 million of additional requirements for priority areas. Revenues are projected at \$11,177 million, \$169 million less than the original budget plan. The additional \$158 million in net cash requirements will not necessitate public borrowing. In fact, during the 1976-77 fiscal year, treasury bills outstanding were reduced by \$195 million.

The deterioration in the 1976 revenue performance is primarily attributable to a poorer economic performance than originally anticipated when the budget was formulated. The revenues most affected are personal income tax, retail sales tax and corporation income tax. These revenues exhibit the greatest sensitivity to fluctuations in the economy. Much of the deterioration has been offset by higher than forecast payments under the revenue guarantee and improvements in non-budgetary receipts and credits.

On the expenditure front, increased funding was allocated during the year to cover additional requirements for the operation of hospitals and senior citizens' facilities, for home renewal grants, firefighting and other programmes. However, these increases were entirely financed through expenditure savings from other areas.

For the 11 months ended February 28, 1977, budgetary revenue amounted to \$8,880 million, or 14.3 per cent over the same period last fiscal year. On the other hand, budgetary expenditure was \$10,179 million, for an increase of 11.7 per cent over the same period in 1975-76.

SPECIAL WARRANTS

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the new House rules, I have tabled the special warrants approved between the last and the current sessions.

At the same time copies of these special warrants were placed in the postal boxes of each member on Tuesday, March 29. A special warrant is an order under section 4 of The Management Board of Cabinet Act, signed by the Lieutenant Governor, authorizing expenditures of an urgent nature for which no appropriation exists and is permissible only when the Legislature is not in session. It differs from a Management Board order primarily in that an MBO may only increase the spending level of an appropriation which already exists, whereas a special warrant has the effect of creating a new appropriation.

The two special warrants which were approved were both of an urgent nature which

could not be delayed until the current session of this Legislature. For particulars concerning these special warrants I would suggest that questions be directed to the ministries concerned.

FAMILY LAW REFORM

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I intend to introduce today the four bills on family law reform which were before the House last session. I refer, of course, to The Family Law Reform Act, The Succession Law Reform Act, The Marriage Act, and The Children's Law Reform Act.

With the exception of The Children's Law Reform Act, which was given first reading on the last day of the session, all the bills were before the standing committee on justice when the House rose in December. Many people who wished to make presentations to the standing committee could not be accommodated in the time available last session. Accordingly, in order to continue the policy of full public consultation through the final steps of the legislative process, we chose to reintroduce the bills in this session and refer them back to the standing committee for further examination.

Much work has been done on the bills on the basis of both the comments we received in the standing committee last session and further submissions since that time. However, the improvements are largely matters of clarification, form and emphasis. What has been clear since the initial introduction of these reforms is the broad public support for the principles incorporated in the legislation. Our commitment to equality, fairness, individual freedom and personal responsibility in family law has therefore been confirmed.

The Family Law Reform Act continues to provide for equal sharing of family assets on marriage breakdown, support obligations based on need and contracts for private arrangements about property and support. In response to public concern two particular alterations will be made. First, no support obligation will arise between a childless common-law couple until they have lived together five years; the previous period was two years. Second, provision will be made for common-law spouses to make agreements similar to marriage contracts. Thus contracts could provide for the couple to share property or adjust their support obligations in the same way as legally married persons.

The Succession Law Reform Act equalizes the inheritance rights of children born within and outside marriage, and equalizes the rights

of widows and widowers. It implements many principles recommended by the Ontario Law Reform Commission with respect to wills, intestate succession and dependant's relief.

The Marriage Act similarly implements some of the major recommendations of the Ontario Law Reform Commission report on marriage and clears up a number of administrative procedures.

The Children's Law Reform Act removes the legal stigma of illegitimacy and provides rules and procedures for facilitating proof of parentage. Later in the session I hope to expand The Children's Law Reform Act to deal with custody, guardianship and other related matters.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, in this session I look forward to the culmination of a major part of the process of family law reform. I am confident that our intensive study and broad consultation has produced a package of reforms which is unmatched in any other jurisdiction.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am tabling a background paper entitled: Freedom of Information; the Right of Privacy and Government Information Practices.

This paper is a perspective document which outlines the development, in Canada and elsewhere, of the related concepts of freedom of information and information privacy as components of government information practices.

It identifies the dilemma faced by the policymaker as the result of the emergence of two schools of thought from the current debate in Canada over government information practices. One school is wedded to the concept of a legislative solution not unlike that adopted in the United States. The other school advocates a solution said to be more in keeping with our system of responsible government and parliamentary democracy.

Mr. Lawlor: We have the best of both.

[2:15]

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Commentators are unanimously of the view that government information practices can be improved.

Mr. Cassidy: You are not going to act though.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: The paper points out, however, that interest in these matters is a relatively recent phenomenon and that no

thorough assessment has been done of the probable effects on our system of government of the solutions proposed.

Mr. Lawlor: It has been around as long as the Tories.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: The paper recommends a thorough study of government information practices in the light of both the needs of the people of Ontario and the exigencies of our system of government.

Mr. Cassidy: Never do today what you can study till tomorrow.

Mr. Reid: Study it to death.

Mr. Lawlor: A question—

Mr. Speaker: No, not at this time. The hon. member will be given an opportunity shortly.

Mr. Lewis: What are those exigencies the Attorney General is talking about?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Mr. Ruston: Rent control.

Mr. S. Smith: Minister of a mess.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, in the Speech from the Throne—

Mr. Peterson: Why did you steal the Premier's (Mr. Davis') rose?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister only has the floor.

Mr. Ruston: He needs a little encouragement.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

LCBO WAREHOUSE FOR DURHAM REGION

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'll start over again. In the Speech from the Throne the government announced an initiative to foster economic development east of Metropolitan Toronto by locating significant government operations in selected areas.

I have the pleasure today of announcing the first of these projects, a \$40-million bulk storage and distribution warehouse, which the Liquor Control Board of Ontario is to construct in the Durham region.

Mr. Peterson: There is industry for you.

Mr. Roy: Have you made a poll of that?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: This 600,000 square foot facility, to be built in Whitby, will be the largest in the Liquor Board's chain of storage and distribution centres and will eventually employ more than 100 people, as well as the temporary employment created during construction.

Mr. Samis: Are those ballpark figures on that?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: My colleague, the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes), has already announced that the province is providing a \$1.7-million interest-free loan to the region to assist in servicing industrial land as part of a balanced programme of development.

Part of that money will be used by the regional government to provide the necessary access roads for this development. It is estimated that the improved traffic linkage between Ottawa and Whitby industrial areas will have considerable effect in accelerating industrial activity on about 1,000 acres of land in the area.

Mr. Moffatt: Any consultation?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Just keep waiting.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There will be time for questions in a moment. The hon. Minister of Labour.

Interjections.

PROVINCE-WIDE CONSTRUCTION BARGAINING

Hon. B. Stephenson: At the appropriate time today, I will introduce a bill to establish province-wide single-trade bargaining in the construction industry in the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors of that industry. Members will recall that a similar bill—Bill 176—was presented for their consideration in the last session of the Legislature but was not passed into law before the House prorogued in December.

As with Bill 176, this bill too embodies the main recommendations contained in the report of the construction industry bargaining commission which I tabled in the Legislature on June 4, 1976. I have today had 10 more copies of that report delivered to each caucus.

As I explained in December the bill is confined to the industrial, commercial and institutional sector of the construction industry and will result in the reduction of bargaining situations from 205 to approxi-

mately 25 as a result of the requirement that bargaining within that sector be conducted on a single-trade, province-wide basis.

As the members know, there are two important related factors. First, all collective agreements within this sector will be for two years and will be required to expire on a common date; and secondly, provision is made for the designation of a co-ordinating agency to enable employer bargaining agencies to exchange information and data and to engage in related co-ordinating activities.

The consolidation of bargaining structures along trade or craft lines in this important sector should eliminate disruptive intra-trade and intra-regional bargaining rivalries and allow the parties to adopt broader bargaining perspectives to the benefit of all those active in the industry, as well as to the province as a whole. The resulting concentrated nature of bargaining will also enable my ministry to provide even more effective and innovative mediation services. Therefore, the bill represents a significant improvement in the collective bargaining process.

As I have said, most of the provisions of the bill are similar or identical to those contained in Bill 176. However, some changes, most of them of a technical nature, have been made. The one significant change that does not fall into the technical category, and which should be emphasized, relates to the timing of mandatory province-wide single-trade bargaining.

It was originally assumed that the bill would be enacted last December, thus enabling the ministry to designate both employer and trade union provincial bargaining agencies well in advance of April 30, 1977—the date upon which approximately 70 per cent of the affected collective agreements expire. However, it is now clear that even if the bill is enacted before April 30, there will be insufficient time to permit the affected parties to organize themselves and to obtain ministerial designation as provincial bargaining agencies for the 1977 round of bargaining. The designation process is likely to be time-consuming, and I am sure all members will agree that such a fundamental restructuring of collective bargaining should begin on the right foot with appropriate attention paid to all the important considerations involved.

Intensive consultation in the past several weeks with representatives of major unions and employers affected by the proposed legislation have confirmed that it would be unrealistic to attempt to have 1977 bargaining

governed by the legislation. For these reasons the bill has been modified to provide that single-trade province-wide bargaining be mandatory only on or after April 30, 1978, and that in the meantime all agreements concluded after January 1, 1977, but before April 30, 1978, be deemed to expire on April 30, 1978, regardless of their stipulated expiry dates.

The other amendments are of a more technical nature. The designation procedure has been somewhat modified to provide for greater flexibility in devising designation orders and in resolving problems that may be encountered. The other technical change relates to the repeal of outstanding accreditation orders in the industrial, commercial and institutional sector of the construction industry as employer bargaining agencies are designated. This change is to guard against the possibility of conflicting bargaining rights and recognizes that the concept of the bill supersedes the pre-existing accreditation procedures of the Act for this sector.

I am pleased to report to the members of the House that the contents of the bill which I am introducing today have broad support from both labour and management in the industrial, commercial and institutional sector of the construction industry. The degree of bipartisan support and encouragement continues to be encouraging to us. However, all members will appreciate that this bill embodies a unique labour relations concept—a new departure in the structure of collective bargaining, if you will—and therefore, as I said in December, the government must carefully monitor the new process as it evolves.

As the monitoring proceeds I will not hesitate to recommend changes as circumstances may require. But having said that, I am optimistic that the bill will result in significant improvements to the collective bargaining process in this very important sector of the construction industry, and, I believe, will assist it to operate effectively and responsibly in the post-control economy which lies before us.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

JOBS FOR YOUTH

Mr. Lewis: A question if I may, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: Given the breakdown of figures for youth unemployment, which has jumped 28 per cent over this time last year, up to 143,000 now, can the Premier indicate to us more specifically

the number of jobs he expects to be created through the initiatives his government is taking? Even more than that, given the exact reference in the Throne Speech to student employment related to services to the aged, how many jobs are we talking about?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, there was reference to this very important aspect in Her Honour's very excellent Throne Speech and—

Mr. Eakins: Cut out the games.

Mr. Breithaupt: Written by whom?

Mr. Roy: Is he out of order, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Breithaupt: If you had written it yourself, it couldn't have been better.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I've been here a relatively short period of time and I don't really recall Her Honour making a better Throne Speech than was delivered on Tuesday. I think she should be congratulated on it.

Mr. Lewis: It was Her Honour's swan song.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, it was not Her Honour's swan song; I've got to tell you that it was not.

Mr. Ferrier: Now you're being provocative.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'm not being provocative. I resent any implication that by my stating what an excellent speech it was, delivered by Her Honour, I am being at all provocative.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: How many jobs are you creating?

Hon. Mr. Davis: In reply to the Leader of the Opposition—and it is an important subject—I would ask him to be patient in terms of these issues being dealt with when the equally excellent budget of the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) of this province will be presented in, roughly, two and a half weeks.

Mr. Sargent: It's a big grab bag, that's all.

Mr. Lewis: By way of a supplementary: There was a reference to the budget, there was also a specific reference to the programme to provide jobs in conjunction with services to the aged as part of a Throne Speech initiative; can the Premier indicate to us how many jobs in that designated category?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, this will be contained in the budget.

Mr. Lewis: By way of a supplementary: Is the Premier, as a government, prepared to allow the removal of the summer savings requirement from the Ontario student aid programme as at least one small way to make it possible for students to—

Mr. Singer: That's not a supplementary, that's one of the initial questions.

Mr. Lewis: It is supplementary to jobs—in order to provide the access since the jobs are not there?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'm not as familiar as I used to be with the student award programme and I will only go by recollection. The question really should be properly directed to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Parrott). But as I recall it, there is included in the programme a recognition, or they can account for the fact that they have not been able to get summer employment, that it has been a part of the approach to it.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Kitchener-Wilmot has a supplementary.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I think it's a supplementary to the first question.

Mr. Speaker: We'll hear it.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I asked a supplementary, which you permitted. I presume, therefore, that it remains on the first question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Kitchener-Wilmot with his supplementary.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, through you to the Premier. Given that there are 10 applications for each Experience '77 opening in the province right now, and we're a long way from this coming summer, does the government propose to expand that programme, obviously to provide more jobs for 10 times as many students who are applying?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I guess my answer would be the same as I gave to the Leader of the Opposition which was, perhaps, not understood—I'll phrase it that way—by the hon. member. The details related to this government's programmes for young people and other areas of our economy will be contained in the budget of the Treasurer.

Mr. Cassidy: How soon does the Premier intend that the government's programmes to help young workers, if there are any, will

start to take effect; that in view of the fact that six weeks ago, in the middle of February, one worker in every five of teen age and one worker in every eight of the age of 20 to 24, was out of a job in the province of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would say to the hon. member that we intend them to take effect, as they have in other years, related to the government's programme of employing young people internally within the government, or incentives or other approaches we may wish to discuss; they will relate to the same period of time they have in other years. I think the answer is really very obvious. If the hon. member wants me to restate it, I've restated it.

Mr. Speaker: One final supplementary from the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Nixon: This is really supplementary to the Leader of the Opposition's second question. Can the Premier assure the House that even if his programme, which will be announced by the budget, is not successful in giving employment to all of the young people, particularly university students who are looking for employment, that no student will be hindered from continuing education by reason of the fact that he or she could not earn, in the province of Ontario, the amount of money prescribed by the student award programme?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will restate for the hon. member the basic philosophy in the student award programme which—

Mr. Sargent: Give him the budget, if it will be in the budget.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would say to the hon. member for Grey-Bruce, who knows about all of these issues of course, that there isn't a government in this country that has had, and still has, as comprehensive a programme for student assistance as does the government of the province of Ontario. There isn't one; there isn't one. It is not as good in Manitoba; it's not as good in Saskatchewan; it's not as good in Prince Edward Island. Name any other province—

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order.
[2:30]

Hon. Mr. Davis: I haven't finished answering yet.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The basic philosophy behind the programme is very simple, and that is to assist those students who have legitimate needs so that a student can have access to our post-secondary institutions which is not predicated upon economic resource.

Mr. Nixon: So the government is waiving the minimum summer requirement; the minimum summer earning requirement?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I announced that as a final supplementary. There was some question—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There was some question as to whether there were separate questions asked by the Leader of the Opposition. I ruled that there was one question; the second part, which some construed as a question, was related to the first one. The hon. Leader of the Opposition may now ask his second question.

Mr. Lewis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the facts but I am sure the Premier is wrong, about those comparisons.

May I ask the Minister of Housing if I could, Mr. Speaker—

Hon. B. Stephenson: The facts have never bothered the member before.

Mr. Lewis: Well can't I work on faith?

Interjections.

HOUSING PROGRAMME

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Housing: I have here a list of the outline of the new home ownership programme, through land sales and private sector participation, applied to 20 or 30 communities across Ontario; the AHOP and non-AHOP sales intended, land and housing. Can I ask the minister: (a) why none of this, I think, has yet been made public, although you have tender calls intended for the immediate future; and (b) why has the minister not discussed this with the key municipalities involved, which should surely have some sense of what the government intends within their own perimeters?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I would have to ask the hon. member if he could let me see that material because I don't believe I have seen it, the material he's referring to. I quite frankly admit that I am not sure what it is.

Mr. Martel: You need a shredder, John.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I may have seen it and I may not relate it to his question. If he can send it to me, I would like to look at it, but I don't think I can answer him properly at this time.

Mr. Sargent: Are you running Liberal next time?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: There won't be very many around, I'll tell the member that.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, it sounds fair that it should be difficult to answer if the minister hasn't seen it. May I ask him, therefore, by way of an anticipatory supplementary, that he explain when he answers how it is that the government has driven the land cost up to almost the maximum possible level, therefore increasing the cost of housing in and out of AHOP.

Can I send it over to the minister? I will send it over to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Singer: Surely, Mr. Speaker. you have to cut that nonsense off.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If there is a supplementary to that we will hear it.

Mr. Singer: To the anticipatory supplementary question; is that what we are going to have?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, so I can hear.

Mr. Breaugh: The question is it might just simply be a question of the minister's memory. Is it true that this programme was announced, some six weeks before a public announcement was made at a private gathering at a place called La Scala on Bay Street, to some selected builders and developers? Is that true?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I would have to bow to the hon. member's regular visits to La Scala; I haven't been there for the last six weeks so it certainly wasn't made by me.

Mr. Breithaupt: Must have been a select committee day.

ONTARIO FINANCES

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, if I may direct a question to the Treasurer: In view, Mr.

Speaker, of the special edition of Ontario Finances indicating "a poorer economic performance than originally anticipated in the province of Ontario"; is the Treasurer continuing to forecast, as he did previously, five per cent real growth in the Ontario economy in 1977?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I imagine that will be something which I will forecast again, in some form or another, in the budget.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that the failure of the economy to live up to its previous forecast, to result in a shortfall of revenue of \$169 million; in view of the Conference Board estimate, who have now downwardly revised their estimate to 2.9 per cent and that downward revision was only for Ontario and Quebec; how can the Treasurer continue to stick to his previous estimate of government expenditures, which he discussed with us in this House prior to the breakup of the last session?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid I'm not clear on the question. Is the member advocating a higher rate of expenditure?

Mr. S. Smith: If I may just clarify the question, Mr. Speaker: Since the rate of expenditure is presumably linked to the anticipated growth in the economy and since the forecast the Treasurer gave was five per cent, in view of the fact that his previous estimate was overly optimistic and in view of the fact that the Conference Board in Canada, as one forecaster—a distinguished group—have now lowered their prediction to 2.9 per cent, how can he continue to be so optimistic in predicting a five per cent rate, having tied the expenditures, presumably, to that anticipated rate of growth?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, the expenditures aren't necessarily linked to the rate of growth of the economy. In fact, some would argue that they should be counter-cyclical; I'm not making that argument. Presumably the rate of growth in revenues would be more closely linked to the rate of growth of the economy rather than to the expenditures in the short run. In the long run, of course, I think there's general feeling on this side of the House and, indeed, elsewhere that if government expenditure continues to climb ultimately it, too, affects the rate of growth of the economy.

Mr. Cassidy: Will the Treasurer agree that the statement he just gave to the House was dissembling to the degree that it dealt with cash requirements and not the budgetary statement? Will he agree that the budgetary deficit for the province of Ontario, which he forecast at being less than a billion dollars in his original budget, is now forecast to be \$302 million higher; and that the budgetary revenue of the province of Ontario, which he was suggesting was down by \$100 million or so, in effect will be down by \$247 million? Isn't that misleading the House?

Mr. Lewis: My goodness, this is going to be a good session.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as members opposite continually treat net cash requirements as a deficit as opposed to cash requirements, we deal with cash requirements. The figures are there; interpret them as you wish.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Hamilton West?

Mr. Lewis: Come back with my material, John.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Sarnia with a supplementary.

Mr. Bullbrook: May we presume from the Throne Speech and the Treasurer's continuation of the agreement with the federal government under the anti-inflation programme, that the Treasurer of Ontario still regards inflation as a more significant hazard to the economy of this province than the obvious downturn that's now taking place?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That's somewhat removed. It's a good question but somewhat removed from the—

Mr. Bullbrook: It has nothing to do with La Scala, I realize that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Singer: It isn't anticipatory either.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Hamilton West with his second question.

HOME BUYER GRANTS

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Minister of Revenue: Would the minister tell the House how much money, precisely, the government has now recovered of the close to \$10 million in illegal first-time home buyer grants?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, I cannot provide this information precisely at this time but I will do this in a few days.

Mr. Sargent: I bet you will!

Mr. Sweeney: Different ministry, same answer.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary: Can the minister tell us, Mr. Speaker, whether any money has been paid out in second instalments to persons already identified as ineligible recipients of these particular grants?

Mr. Sargent: Unfair question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I think, Mr. Speaker, that if such a situation had arisen it would be entirely as a result of error on our part, because such would not be our intent. However, I think there have been instances in which second cheques have gone out and their return has been asked.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary: Since the minister is aware, apparently, that some cheques have been returned, can she give us any estimate whatsoever of how much money has been recovered and whether any second instalments were sent out when the money should not have been, and have not been returned?

Mr. Sargent: Ask the former minister, he'll tell you.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I'll have to provide this in a reply in a few days, Mr. Speaker.

NUCLEAR WASTE

Mr. Moffatt: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy. I would like to ask the minister, now that he has made a statement in the press that the Madoc site is inappropriate for the disposal of nuclear waste materials, if he would care to share with the House his reasons for making that statement and what evidence he has to justify such an outburst?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Outburst?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I gather the hon. member is opposed to the position; although he's stated it incorrectly, as usual.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Does he want the short reply or the long reply?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the hon. minister answer the question that was asked, please? Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I stated that I was categorically opposed to the proposed nuclear waste site in Madoc. I made that statement for a very simple reason, and that was that in my estimation there should be no Crown agency or government going into an area and telling the local people what its intentions are without consulting with those people.

Mr. Nixon: That's what you do with garbage dumps.

Mr. Cassidy: You get sillier all the time.

Mr. Breithaupt: What about the Hydro programme?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Regardless of what the potential merits may have been, once that course of action is taken, in my estimation it erases the potential for a site in that location.

Mr. Riddell: Take that story to the Bradley-Georgetown people.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. The hon. member for Durham East.

Mr. Moffatt: Perhaps it is inappropriate to style the press release as a statement—

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member have a supplementary, please?

Mr. Moffatt: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker.

Given that answer then, I would like to know if that is the same kind of response which municipalities like the town of Newcastle in the region of Durham will get when it comes to the placing of a nuclear power plant in Darlington?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again, if the hon. member is opposed to a nuclear power plant in Darlington—is he opposed to that? All right.

Mr. Lewis: No, no.

Mr. Moffatt: Answer it.

Mr. Warner: Answer the question.

Mr. Breithaupt: We ask them, you answer them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I can't hear the answer. Will the hon. minister answer the question that was asked?

Mr. Warner: He doesn't have an answer.

Mr. Riddell: You won't be any further ahead after.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, surely the member must appreciate that they are not parallel at all.

Mr. McClellan: What a limited principle that was.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The hon. member should know.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In the case of the Madoc site there was an agency of the federal government, AECL, that went in there in advance of government policy. I do not think that a Crown agency should be going into an area in advance of government policy which may fix the government's position.

Mr. Breithaupt: You wouldn't do that.

Mr. Sargent: Did the former Minister of Energy (Mr. Timbrell), tell you that?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A final supplementary from the member for Renfrew North.

Mr. Conway: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, given your statements about Madoc and given the importance of the nuclear dump question, how do you feel about Chalk River becoming a dumping site for the nuclear waste products?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question had to do with Madoc and that's not Chalk River.

Mr. S. Smith: What is Darlington?

Mr. Singer: It is anticipatory.

RAILWAY LAND AT ERIEAU

Mr. Spence: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. Is the minister aware that in the county of Kent the village of Erieau has 92 acres of land owned by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company? Is he aware that 67 homes of citizens in that village are built on that property, and 24 of these homes are those of senior citizens, widows and widowers; and that this is creating a hardship to those people?

The price of these leases in the past was as low as \$24 and now they have increased them to \$727. Others were as low as \$45 and they have now increased the leases to \$1,302. The citizens of this village have tried to purchase these lots from the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, is there a question? I have difficulty hearing it.

Mr. Sargent: It is a good question.

Mr. Cassidy: It is a good question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Spence: The council of this municipality has tried to purchase these leases from the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, yet the railway says it will only sell the property—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. You are making quite a speech. I haven't heard a question yet. Will the hon. member ask his question?

Mr. Spence: All right, I'll cut 'er down.

Mr. Sargent: Having said that—

[2:45]

Mr. Spence: This municipality can't deal with this Ohio railway, and I ask the government if it would enter in and deal with this problem of the citizens of the village of Erieau; because no municipality can deal with it, I ask the government to take action. Will the minister do this; will he act?

Mr. Roy: You got your two questions out.

Mr. Sargent: Get your shin pads on.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, if I wasn't aware, I am now; but I was aware. In fact, I know the hon. member realizes the people of that particular community know they were paying very low rent, because those figures he was quoting were per year on the properties.

Secondly, I'm sure he knows this ministry did try to purchase the property. There is a difference of over 100 per cent between our appraised value and the asking price. I think he has to realize that the purchase of that property by this government would not necessarily solve the problems of the people in the community, because they live on land that would be totally unacceptable for housing if this government owned it. The lots are overlapping, the deeds are confused, they are substandard sizes and there are sewage problems. The first thing that would have to happen is probably a clearance of that land for park purposes, and I don't see how that would solve the problems of the people at all—

Mr. Conway: It sounds like one of you would like to buy it.

Hon. F. S. Miller: —because they're interested in tenure, they're not interested in us creating a park there; I'm sure he agrees with that.

Mr. Good: What are you going to do about it?

Hon. F. S. Miller: As a park it does not have a high priority, because this ministry has a number of requirements for park lands and I'm afraid that's somewhat down the list.

Mr. Spence: Supplementary: Is the minister going to let these citizens lose their homes in the village of Erieau? This is a serious matter to the council and the citizens of that village and the county of Kent.

Hon. F. S. Miller: What I've tried to point out to the hon. member is that the purchase of that land by the province would probably end their tenure much faster than an agreement with the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway.

Mr. Sargent: You are the bad guys.

SUDBURY-SAULT RAIL SERVICE

Mr. Wildman: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. In view of the provincial government's recent offer, announced by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) in Sault Ste. Marie, to have the ONTC take over the CPR Budd car service between Sudbury and the Sault, and the statement in the House of Commons yesterday by the Hon. Otto Lang that he would be willing to facilitate negotiations between the ONR and the CPR, can the Minister of Transportation and Communications describe for the House what proposals he has made to the federal minister regarding arrangements for such a takeover?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I have made no proposals for such a takeover. As a matter of fact this is the first I've heard of it.

Mr. Angus: He doesn't know what you were talking about.

Mr. Speaker: Is there a supplementary to that?

An hon. member: The minister should hang around La Scala a little more.

Mr. Wildman: By way of supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Does the member for Algoma have a supplementary?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Maybe I should have a supplementary. As the hon. member I'm sure knows, I have been out of town for the last three days, just arriving back this morning, and there may be something in my mail that I'm not aware of.

An hon. member: The Minister of Housing can look after the shop for you.

Mr. Wildman: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: I don't see how there could be a supplementary from a non-answer. I'm serious about that.

Mr. Reid: If you're serious about that, be consistent.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think members should realize they don't have to ask that second question and call it a supplementary. If there isn't an answer given, if there's a promise to give an answer, well then, let's wait till that answer comes.

Mr. Sargent: He should know something, though.

Mr. Speaker: I don't see how there can possibly be a supplementary to that particular question so I will hear the member for Ottawa East—his question that is.

Mr. Reid: The hon. Leader of the Opposition did that, Mr. Speaker. All I'm looking for is consistency.

TRADUCTION DES STATUTS TRANSLATION OF STATUTES

Mr. Roy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just to keep up with the proceedings of Tuesday: j'ai une question pour le procureur général. Je veux demander au procureur général, Monsieur l'orateur, pourquoi vu l'établissement des cours en français en Ontario, celui-ci ou son gouvernement n'a pas accepté des subventions du gouvernement du Canada pour traduire les statuts de l'Ontario en français.

Did you get that?

Mr. Speaker: I will be kind. But I did want to emphasize the problem. I want to ask the Attorney General, in view of the fact that he is establishing French courts in Ontario, and in Ottawa specifically in July, can he explain why his government has refused grants from the federal government of \$500,000 for the translation of Ontario statutes?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: The cost of translating all of the Ontario statutes would be very considerable. The \$500,000 that the member refers to would cover at very best a tiny fraction of the cost. While the proposal is a laudatory one, I think the appropriateness of this proposal is a question that might well be directed, for example, to the provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Peterson: Nice move.

Mr. Roy: Would the Treasurer like it?

Mr. Speaker: Order please, a supplementary now.

Mr. Roy: My supplementary to whichever minister, including the Premier, if he chooses to answer—

Mr. Speaker: The question was asked of the Attorney General.

Mr. Roy: —is, given the minister's answer that, having some statutes in French is a logical conclusion of pleading in the French-language courts, would the minister not have felt that it would be a good start to do like Manitoba and the province of New Brunswick and accept over the last five years \$100,000 a year at least to start the translation of some of these statutes? And would the minister advise whether he would accept the grants for the year 1977 to start the translation of statutes?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Perhaps I may be ill-informed, but it has not been my understanding that there are any such grants available for translation, for example, of two or three statutes. I agree The Highway Traffic Act would be a good place to start, and we are looking at that.

My understanding is that these funds that the member refers to that are purportedly available from Ottawa are not available on a statute-by-statute basis.

Mr. Breithaupt: You should start there.

Mr. Peterson: To the Attorney General: Would it not be his legal opinion that it would be very difficult to have a French court operating with statutes in a different language? Does he not agree that that would make the legal technicalities for the judge and the various people involved very complicated, and that this programme should be undertaken post haste?

Mr. Roy: Just say yes.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Obviously it would be of assistance to have the sections that are generally used in relation to criminal prosecutions available in both languages, and we are endeavouring to do that.

Mr. Cassidy: You just said you were not.

ALLEGED OHIP FRAUDS

Mr. Duksza: I have a question of the Minister of Health. In view of the decisions

reached in a divisional court of the Supreme Court of Ontario, firstly in the matter between Robert Louis Archambeault and the optometry review committee of the College of Optometry of Ontario; and secondly, in the matter between Dr. Joseph Y. Wakil and the medical review committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, where in both these cases the court held that there has been a denial of natural justice, my first question is what specific action is the minister contemplating to bring forcibly to the attention of professional governing bodies the need to adhere strictly to the principles of natural justice? Two, what action is the minister contemplating to amend immediately The Statutory Powers Procedure Act, The Health Disciplines Act and The Health Insurance Act? Or is the minister not interested in recovering the OHIP money which was alleged to have been overpaid?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I noticed a little dig at the end of the question, which was really unnecessary because he knows very well that my interest, the interest of my predecessor, and the interest of the government are very clear in recovering any funds that should not have been paid out. On the question relating to the court decisions—

Mr. Singer: Like in housing grants when you did it twice.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: —I am reviewing this with the officials of my ministry and of OHIP to determine whether amendments to the legislation are necessary or whether it can be accommodated through administrative changes.

MAPLE LANDFILL PROJECT

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment with respect to the proposed Maple garbage dump.

In view of the fact that an industry which is three-quarters controlled by American interests has made a proposal to establish in Maple what is tantamount to being Canada's largest garbage dump on an overgrown garbage bag, with the resultant threat of contamination of the water supply for Maple and for the town of Richmond Hill, will the ministry intervene with the Environmental Assessment Board and direct that board to apply the available rules of procedure which would require the applicants to submit briefs on alternative proposals, both dealing with site and alternative methods of garbage disposal?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, it is not absolutely necessary for the applicant to provide alternative sites or alternative methods of disposing of waste. The applicant, of course, has to make its case out as far as the proposed site is concerned. That is something that could be asked for by intervenors, by people who are parties to that hearing. For example, anybody intervening could say that an alternative site within a few miles would be less environmentally dangerous than the proposed site. But that isn't required of the applicant.

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that the ministry has changed its mind already in these hearings—taking a stand against the applicants at the beginning and then in March, this month, 1977, changing its attitude towards these applicants—what is the attitude of the ministry with respect to what is virtually an American-owned monopoly in this situation? Again, I direct the minister's attention to the resultant threat of contamination of the water supplies.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The latter part of the hon. member's supplementary is what is important to us. The fact that it may be an American-controlled company is not at issue here; this is a question of whether or not this is a safe site. The Environmental Assessment Board is hearing the application at the present time. I am not aware that the ministry has changed its mind at all. I don't believe the ministry has given an official opinion on this site at all at this point. It has been asked for information and for technical evidence and material. The hearings have been adjourned to about mid-May to enable the ministry to provide that material. I am not aware that there has been any change of mind.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if he is planning to hire consultants to assist him in the preparation of this supplementary submission that the board has asked for. I understand consultants were hired for the first brief which appears to have been now withdrawn by the ministry. Is he preparing, with the assistance of consultants, a further statement which will state whether the minister opposes this particular proposal?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: It is quite possible that we will require some outside help.

Mr. Reed: Do revelations of this nature and requests of this nature not indicate to the minister at long last that the recommendation that might be made by the ministry would be

the alternative recommendation of resource recovery?

An hon. member: Never.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, this is something we have made to many municipalities, most of the municipalities in Ontario; many of them have taken advantage of a very generous capital financing programme to do just that.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Samis: I have a question of the Minister of Health. Can the minister indicate to the House when we can expect some action in the field of French-language health services along the lines suggested by the Dubois report? Can he indicate what priority his ministry is giving to achieving these changes? Thirdly, can he tell us whether his attitude towards implementing the changes is very different from that of his predecessor as was widely reported in the press before Christmas?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I can say to the hon. member and to the House that the matters covered by the "pas de problème" report are a very high priority with me and that I hope to bring recommendations to my colleagues in the cabinet within the next three to four weeks.

[3:00]

Mr. Samis: Supplementary: Can I ask if we can expect immediate action on one of the principal recommendations, namely the appointing of a director of French-language programmes within the ministry?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: That is part of the review of the total report which we are making within the ministry. We have sought the comments of some of our sister ministries, which we would hope to have completed by this week, so that we can bring the whole matter, including the question of staffing, as a package to my colleagues.

BENEFITS RATES

Mr. R. S. Smith: I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Community and Social Services, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister indicate to the House when he intends to adjust the family benefits rates, as well as those of GWA, both of which have not been adjusted for at least two years? Over that period, the inflation that has taken place has

more than eaten up any increases that were given them.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I—

[Applause]

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Now the hon. minister.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I don't have them any longer; my staff took care of that.

Mr. Speaker, the question that's raised by the hon. member opposite is one that is under active consideration by the ministry at the present time—

Mr. Cassidy: That is, before you said it.

Some hon. members: Sit down.

Mr. Lewis: Show us your social conscience, Keith.

Mr. S. Smith: He is not the gingerbread man.

Mr. Nixon: You have learned well.

Mr. Cassidy: That is a recycled answer if I ever heard one.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, we would like to hear the answer.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It was one of the first things to which I directed my interest when I assumed my present duties and it is something that had been initiated by my predecessor. I would hope that there will be an announcement in the very near future. You also understand of course that it's not a determination for me alone, but the whole of the cabinet, and I would expect an early decision on that.

Mr. Roy: Really?

Mr. Nixon: Perhaps the Treasurer?

Mr. R. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that the last time we asked this question that his predecessor indicated that representations were then in the process of being made to cabinet and to Management Board and that was last fall? I wonder what happened to those representations and just how long it takes to process that type of representation?

Mr. Campbell: Take it to cabinet.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I thought I had acknowledged that I realized my predecessor had

initiated this procedure to the policy field, I believe, at that point—

Mr. Sargent: He didn't either.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —and the matter is much further along the line now. That's why I suggest the members will probably be hearing a relatively early announcement.

Mr. Good: Are you against it?

Mr. Roy: Your former boss used to say "in the fullness of time."

Ms. Sandeman: Supplementary: When the minister is making his calculations and doing his surveys could he assure the House that the family benefits rates will be based on actual budgetary needs which take into account the actual cost of components of the benefits, such as the actual costs of hydro rates, the actual costs of fuel, and not some figure plucked out of the air?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I can assure the hon. member that in arriving at the new level full consideration will be given to the increased costs in the areas that she has cited—

Mr. Sargent: In the fullness of time.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —taking into consideration, of course, the resources that are at our disposal to meet those needs.

With respect to the question of fuel consumption though, I think there may be a misconception on the part of the hon. member, as there is on the part of many people, that in fact it is already possible under the existing programmes to meet the actual cost of fuel. There is a figure that is arrived at, an estimated cost which is payable on a monthly basis. At the end of the heating season if the recipient is in a position to present bills indicating that his costs for fuel have exceeded the amount allowable, he can be reimbursed for the full amount of the costs of his fuel.

Mr. B. Newman: Supplementary: I wanted to ask the minister if he was considering setting into the FBA costs an energy supplement so that in the future the high cost of energy wouldn't have an adverse monthly effect on the individual; the individual wouldn't have to wait until the end of the winter season, or the cold season.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I have discussed with my staff various methods that we might introduce to try to compensate for the shortfall that people experience on a monthly basis. I realize that is a hardship for some people

and it has caused some difficulty in people's relationship with their fuel supplier. We would like to find a remedy for that.

Mr. Deans: I have one supplementary. Even if it were true that they were able to be reimbursed for any over-expenditure incurred, where would the minister propose that they get the money during the winter months to pay for it as they require it?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I have indicated to the question that the shortfall creates a real problem for many people and I have also indicated in my response to the previous question that I have under discussion with my staff methods which we might introduce to try to counteract the problem people face on a month-to-month basis. I would hope, as soon as we have a solution, to announce it to the members of the House.

Mr. Deans: Did you ever think of just giving them more money?

INCOME TAX REBATES

Mr. Davison: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Will the minister inform the House as to when he intends to introduce legislation to control the practice of discounting income-tax rebates in the province of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of the hon. member's interest in this and the fact that he has written an open letter to me asking me to acquaint myself with the practices of other jurisdictions. We're fully aware of the practice in other jurisdictions. I'll be sending the hon. member a reply to his letter very shortly. The answer is that the other provinces have introduced legislation which is completely unconstitutional. They know it, but they're doing it and trying to pull a bluff.

Mr. Warner: You are trying to protect the consumer?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: They're trying to pull a bluff on the tax rebaters. I don't see any purpose of bringing in legislation which could be successfully challenged in the courts.

Mr. Peterson: Oh, come on now. That's not a proposal.

Mr. Roy: You have enough court cases, right?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We have asked the federal government, on a number of occasions—I have just written this week to the Minister of National Revenue, the Hon. Monique Bégin, asking her to make a simple amendment to The Income Tax Act which would put a stop to the practice on a national basis.

Mr. Davison: Surely what we're interested in is action—

Mr. Speaker: Question? This is not a debate. Have you a question, please?

Mr. Davison: Surely what we're interested in is action. The other provinces have got—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is there a further question?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is not a time for debate. It's a time for a question and answer.

Mr. Davison: Why can't this government do something to protect citizens who are being gouged? Let's have some action instead of talk.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, this government has never hesitated to act within its power.

Mr. Roy: Even without its power.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The question of interest is so clearly a federal jurisdiction that even in the province of Quebec has not challenged it.

Mr. Peterson: Hire McMurtry as a lawyer, then go ahead.

Mr. Renwick: Does the minister understand that the people who are being ripped off are the very people who obtained their rebate under the Ontario tax credit system implemented by this assembly? Is there not some way that this assembly can prohibit the cashing of those cheques by persons other than the payees?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, that question might properly be better addressed to the Minister of Revenue (Mrs. Scrivener) who negotiates the agreement with the federal government. We have asked—

Mr. Renwick: Let me repeat it to the Minister of Revenue, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I just want to put forward what we have done from our ministry. We have asked the Minister of National

Revenue to put in a simple amendment which would require the person receiving a tax rebate to receive it directly without being able to assign it. It's a simple matter.

Mr. Renwick: Meanwhile, you stop them.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, one supplementary: May I ask, to the minister's knowledge has any of the other legislation in any jurisdiction been successfully challenged in court?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, it hasn't been successfully challenged because—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, they are simply ignoring the legislation. The Minister of Consumer Services, the Hon. Kenneth Rafe Mair, who has just tabled legislation in British Columbia, has written to the Minister of National Revenue in Ottawa pointing out that he doesn't feel this legislation will stand up and will she please act.

UTDC FOREIGN CONTRACTS

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Will the minister tell the House whether the Urban Transportation Development Corporation still plans to hire foreign sales agents in co-operation with your ministry?

Mr. Sargent: He has been away. Don't ask him that.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not totally aware of what the hon. member is referring to.

Mr. Cassidy: You are not aware of very much today, are you?

Hon. Mr. Snow: The urban transit—

Mr. Conway: Have you got Foley a nomination yet?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The interjections do not help.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, the Urban Transportation—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Snow: —Development Corporation, in conjunction with the Hawker Siddeley Company and through the co-operation of the federal Export Development Corp., did submit a bid on a foreign contract in

Venezuela, that being one of the contracts on the Caracas subway, and a consortium did use the services of a commercial agent in Venezuela.

Mr. Cunningham: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Will we know who these agents are, how much they are being paid, what the basis of our arrangement with them was and the extent of their commission? Also given the fact that we have had some difficulties with the CANDU reactor sales with the federal government, would you not agree that we should discourage some kind of practice like that?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I certainly would be prepared to give any information the hon. member wants. It is my understanding at this time that it is very unlikely that the Canadian bid will be successful. Consequently no funds will be paid to the agent.

HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION

Mr. Mackenzie: To the Minister of Labour: I ask how the minister expects the various national and international unions to notify their local unions to appear before the public inquiry hearings on the new omnibus safety and health legislation as she requested in her letter. The hearings started today, and her letter dated March 23 was only received on March 28 in many cases. How does she expect the local unions to appear before those hearings with only three days' or even two weeks' notice. Further, would she not extend the hearings to other areas of the province, particularly to the Sault and Kingston?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the specific groups involved in the hearings which are going on today in Sudbury had been informed at an earlier time, although they had not received the questionnaire until unfortunately Her Majesty's late mail delivered it to them. I am sorry that I have no control over Post Canada, but we did attempt to send through the mail the letters and the questionnaires to those groups who would be meeting early, at the earliest possible date. There were some that were sent out later because they were those meetings which are going to be held at the end of April, but we have attempted to provide them with the information as far before the meetings as possible. It was not possible however to take the mails into account.

Mr. Mackenzie: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Would the minister then not also

consider, as requested by the steel workers, the draft legislation being submitted so that we can have some meaningful public dialogue on what we are trying to do with this important bill. You want this kind of input in Bill 176, why not in this bill that covers all of the workers?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, there is apparently some misinformation floating around that there is draft legislation. When we began the development—when we discussed Bill 139 in fact and I talked about the development of the omnibus bill—I promised personally that we would carry out as full consultative procedures as possible in the development of the omnibus bill. That is precisely what we are doing at this time.

These meetings are consultative meetings to hear the concerns and the opinions of both employers and employees throughout the full range and scope of industry in the province of Ontario. We are attempting to get as much information as we can from those people who are directly related to the concerns which will be contained within the omnibus bill. There is no draft legislation at this time. None.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, would the minister indicate whether she is going to permit the media to take their pencils in, since she has denied them the other tools of their trade in covering these meetings?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that it seems to be difficult for the hon. member to read the newspapers but it was announced on radio and it was also published in the newspapers today that indeed they could take both their pads and their pencils into the meeting.

Mr. Lewis: And leave their recorders at the door.

Hon. B. Stephenson: These meetings, sir, are specifically intended to provide full information to the Ministry of Labour which is charged with the responsibility of developing this legislation. They are not intended for any other purpose and if there is any inhibitory effect produced by any external presence within those meetings, then it is not going to be of assistance to either the workers of this province or the people of this province. Therefore we have asked the press to function as efficiently and as responsibly as possible by not cluttering the meetings with extra paraphernalia.

MILK PRICES

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I would address this question to the Minister of Agriculture—

Mr. Lewis: Freedom of the press is a very new idea.

Mr. Kerrio: —but there may be some involvement with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. Is the minister aware of the threat to the business of many small independent dairies because of the practice of large corporate corner-store owners selling milk as a loss-leader?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the question, yes, I am fully aware of what the member is talking about. We just finished a meeting about three weeks ago. The opposition critics sat through it with the various commodity boards, with the various retailers, with the various chain store groups, and discussed this whole matter. Not only that, I just finished releasing a report for the Ontario Milk Commission on the whole pricing of milk in the province of Ontario.

Mr. Roy: What are you going to do about it?

[3:15]

Mr. Kerrio: A supplementary: I have a copy of that report, and I would question this particular matter in regard to this report as a wholesale and retail pricing practice. My further concern has to do with the thousands of jobs that are in jeopardy for the deliverers to the home in this province. I think there are something like 8,000 or 10,000 delivery people involved. They can't compete with a loss-leader—

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Kerrio: The question is, are we going to follow up this particular report and get down to the retail level and some control, so that these thousands of jobs will not be lost to these workers who deliver milk to the door, if you keep a fair and equitable price between what they can deliver for and a loss-leader at the corner store?

Hon. W. Newman: I would like to point out to the hon. member that milk is formula priced as far as the farmers are concerned. It has been, in the past, sold as a loss-leader by some of the larger companies, but certainly that report is in and we are studying it at this point in time. I think the report does recommend that there be some monitoring done. Also, as a result of the other meeting which dealt with the overall picture,

which we had about three weeks ago, we're looking at the total picture right now.

Mr. MacDonald: Supplementary: In view of the fact that the government's food council has been studying the whole issue of loss-leaders since last July or August, what was the purpose of the meeting that the minister convened? How many cooks is he going to get in to stir this broth before he does something about the issue?

Hon. W. Newman: If I understand the member correctly, he'd like to legislate it out of business.

Mr. MacDonald: Right.

Hon. W. Newman: Okay, you've made your position very clear.

Mr. Lewis: Always do.

Hon. W. Newman: We had a public, open meeting with the press there so they could hear the comments of all the people concerned. That's why I had the meeting, so everybody would know exactly what was happening. Our food council has also been—

Interjection.

Hon. W. Newman: You talk about—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: A question of the Minister of Health.

Mr. Sargent: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: No, the member for Sudbury East. We will get to a new question at this time. The member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Martel: Will the minister answer the letter—

Mr. Sargent: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: No, the member for Sudbury East. There's been too much debate going on here.

The member for Sudbury East, finally.

INDUSTRIAL DEAFNESS

Mr. Martel: Will the new minister answer my letters to his predecessor of July 13, January 6 and January 12, concerning industrial deafness? These were letters which attempted to obtain from the minister agreements he had made in his office in July pertaining to the industrial deaf, namely,

that he would ask the health council in Sudbury to establish speech therapy and lip-reading courses and that he would ask his colleagues in cabinet to exclude new employers who are hiring men suffering industrial deafness from being charged any responsibility for damages suffered while working for another employer, thus encouraging the new employer to hire someone who is industrially deaf. Despite three efforts to get it in writing, will the minister now concede or write what the government intends to do with respect to these 800 men in the Sudbury basin?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I don't believe the hon. member has written to me since I assumed my responsibility. I must tell him I have not seen that correspondence from him to my predecessor. I will pull all of it from the files, review it, and write to him as to our position.

Mr. Martel: Supplementary: Would the minister in his reply also tell me who is responsible for the testing of workers and the work place, and if the government is going to force those figures to be released to the workers so they would know as quickly as they started to suffer industrial deafness that they were in fact in jeopardy?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I will review all that. It would be helpful if the member would put in a letter to me the full extent of his concern.

VOTING QUALIFICATIONS

Mr. Eakins: To the Treasurer: Now that the Citizenship Act has been proclaimed, does he anticipate that the voting qualifications for provincial elections and municipal elections would change?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I would anticipate that that would happen. I think the first thing we would want to do is to look to our own statutes here in terms of provincial elections, and then we would move to The Municipal Act.

MAPLE LANDFILL PROJECT

Ms. Bryden: I have two new questions for the Minister of the Environment regarding the Maple landfill situation. The hearings have now gone on for 45 days. In view of the fact that hearings of this length obviously take up a great deal of time and make it very difficult for citizens' groups to appear,

is the ministry considering funding any of the citizens' groups or individuals who are opposing the application? That's my first question.

My second one is, now that The Environmental Assessment Act section applying it to the private sector has been proclaimed as of January 1977, is the minister prepared to designate this particular operation under that Act so that the hearings can be held under The Environmental Assessment Act instead of The Environmental Protection Act where the requirements are more stringent and give more opportunity for participation by various parties?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: We haven't any policy as far as funding private interveners is concerned. In some cases, in hearings under The Environmental Assessment Act we have indicated we may consider funding some groups. We are thinking of that, for example, in the Reed proposal. But as of now under this circumstance the answer would be no.

As to the second part, although the Act was proclaimed in January, we still would have to bring in regulations applying to a specific private undertaking. I indicated that that would not be done until some time in the latter part of this year, until the Act itself and the hearing procedures have had a little more experience.

As the hon. member said, we've had at least 45 days of hearings. I expect there will be at least that many more. To start now all over again under new legislation would really drive the people she is worried about up the wall.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

PETITIONS

Mr. Lawlor: If I may, Mr. Speaker, I have 977 signatures affecting the glassworkers of Ontario, particularly the United Glass and Ceramic Workers of America, Local 200, which is in my riding, with respect to the banning and the policy of the government with respect to non-returnable pop bottles. Since this isn't in precisely technical adequate form, I would ask that these documents be placed in the hands of the minister to carefully peruse the same.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If this is a petition to a ministry it is not proper to come

before the House at this particular time. You can go directly to the ministry.

Mr. Lawlor: I read the rules of this House with great particularity and found that I didn't fall quite under them. I would have the things directed to the minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I just point out that I have—

Mr. Sargent: It is in the wastepaper basket now.

Mr. Speaker: I believe it has already gone across to the minister. We'll have something more to say about petitions later.

Mr. Bain: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of over 5,000 Timiskaming residents, I would like to present to the Lieutenant Governor and to the members of this assembly a petition opposed to the excessive Ontario Hydro rate increase. In addition to their names, the people have affixed their addresses and phone numbers to the petition. In keeping with standing order 83(b), I have also signed the petition.

The petition reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, are opposed to the unjustifiably high rate increase imposed by Ontario Hydro on the people of Timiskaming. We strongly believe that Ontario Hydro should be limited to an eight to 10 per cent increase, the same way the wages of working people are limited to an eight to 10 per cent increase."

In keeping with the recent changes in the standing orders, I look forward to the government's response. Hopefully the government will agree to roll back Ontario Hydro's rate increase this year to eight to 10 per cent. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: May I just say about petitions, we'll have something more to say about this tomorrow.

As the members of the House are aware, I think if they read both rule 83 and other parts of our standing orders, the provisional rules governing our proceedings lay particular stress on the proper use of petitions and the response thereto. For this reason it is essential that petitions presented to this House are completely in order as prescribed by the standing orders of the House. For this reason I will take these petitions which have been presented today under consideration—I think the latter one is addressed to the House, the first one I think was not; we'll have to study those—and advise the House tomorrow whether they're in order and may be properly received by the House. At that time I will

endeavour to make a more comprehensive statement respecting the rules and precedents governing petitions. Thank you.

Presenting reports.

REPORT

Mr. Renwick presented the second report of the select committee on the Ombudsman, and in accordance with the terms of reference asked that it be placed on the order paper for discussion.

Mr. Bain: Mr. Speaker, point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I didn't hear that report completely. Is it for adoption?

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the terms of reference, it goes on to the order paper for discussion.

Mr. Speaker: Yes. I wasn't sure exactly what the hon. member said. Thank you.

Motions.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Motion No. 2.

Mr. Bain: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Point of order? All right. Before the motion, does the hon. member have a point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Bain: Point of order regarding petitions: When the Speaker is studying the matter for his report next day, could he also comment on the fact that in the fall session of 1975, I believe, there was a change. The Liberals supported us in that change that the petition section should be interpreted in the broad sense and that if the petition did not meet with the old procedure that the Speaker would see that it was forwarded to the appropriate minister. I understand that that precedent was an effort to broaden the scope of petitions so genuine concerns of people could be presented to this House.

Mr. Speaker: All these matters will be, I think, elucidated somewhat tomorrow. We've had a meeting with a good discussion on such things. As I say, if you read the new set of temporary rules under which we're operating for this session, it's placing a great deal more responsibility on the petition than before, and I think they want to be treated quite accurately. Certainly we'll be as helpful as we

can to all hon. members, but we'll clarify this matter more thoroughly tomorrow.

Introduction of bills.

[3:30]

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE CROWN AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Kennedy moved first reading of Bill 5, An Act to amend The Proceedings against the Crown Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to clarify the law with respect to the right to garnishee the wages of a Crown employee who is employed by a Crown agency and whose salary or wages are not paid from the consolidated revenue fund, by providing that a Crown agency is subject to garnishment proceedings.

FAMILY LAW REFORM ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved first reading of Bill 6, An Act to reform the Law respecting Property Rights and Support Obligations between Married Persons and in Other Family Relationships.

Motion agreed to.

MARRIAGE ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved first reading of Bill 7, The Marriage Act, 1977.

Motion agreed to.

SUCCESSION LAW REFORM ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved first reading of Bill 8, An Act to reform the Law respecting Succession to the Estates of Deceased Persons.

Motion agreed to.

CHILDREN'S LAW REFORM ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved first reading of Bill 9, An Act to reform the Law respecting the Status of Children.

Motion agreed to.

ELECTIONS FINANCES REFORM AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Johnson moved first reading of Bill 10 An Act to amend The Elections Finances Reform Act, 1975.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, this bill permits newspapers which are published weekly or less frequently to accept election advertisements when the regular publication day comes on the day before polling day. The amendment is substantially the same as the recommendation of the commission on election contributions and expenses, contained in its second annual report.

PERSONAL PROPERTY SECURITY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Handleman moved first reading of Bill 11, An Act to amend The Personal Property Security Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, this amendment will allow interested parties to gain access to the personal property security system by a motor-vehicle serial number. Previously all searches had to be conducted through the owner's name. The bill further provides the effective date of the amendment is to be April 1, which is tomorrow, and we are ready to put the system into operation then.

CLASS ACTIONS ACT

Mr. Lawlor moved first reading of Bill 12, An Act to provide for Class Actions.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lawlor: The Class Actions Act, 1977—the purpose of this bill is to provide statutory procedure whereby one or more persons may sue a defendant in the form of a class action. The bill is designed to achieve this purpose by permitting a person who wishes to sue on behalf of a class to apply for a court order authorizing the class action. Once the order is obtained, the action proceeds as a class action and the final judgement finds for all members of the class except those who have been excluded as well as the parties to the action.

OCCUPIERS' LIABILITY ACT

Mr. Lawlor moved first reading of Bill 13, An Act respecting Occupier's Liability.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lawlor: Mr. Speaker, the bill replaces the common law as to occupiers' duty of care, replacing the common-law distinctions between duties to invitees, licensees, trespassers, with one common duty of care applied

to the circumstances of each case. The bill is in the form recommended by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. B. Stephenson moved first reading of Bill 14, An Act to amend The Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

NOTICE OF MOTION No. 2

Hon. Mr. Welch moved resolution No. 2.

Resolved: That standing committees of the House, for the remainder of the present Parliament, be as follows: social development; resources development; administration of justice; general government; public accounts; statutory instruments; procedural affairs, and members' services.

That the House recommends this committee structure to future Legislatures.

That wherever possible, matters be referred to standing committees, thereby minimizing the necessity for select committees.

That a Speaker's panel is hereby established to consist of Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and chairman of committees of the whole House, the deputy chairman of committees of the whole House, and the chairman of all standing and select committees.

That committees schedule for consideration all matters referred to them after discussion by the Speaker's panel, as desirable; such scheduling shall ensure as far as possible that there is no interference with the business in the House, giving particular attention to clause 31 of the order of December 16, 1976, and such committee consideration shall not conflict with time-scheduling agreements made by the parties in consultation.

That the statutory instruments committee above referred to, include the committee provided for by section 12 of The Regulations Act, and have the terms of reference as set out in that section, and that the said committee, in addition to those powers, shall review and consider:

1. The role of the committee with particular reference to the recommendations of the select committee on the fourth and fifth reports of the Ontario commission on the Legislature, and the practices of the Parlia-

ments of Canada and the United Kingdom, and

2. The establishment of guidelines to be observed in the delegation by statute of power to make statutory instruments and the use made of such delegated power. The said committee to report its recommendations to the House and that in addition to the normal powers of standing committees it shall have power to employ counsel and such other staff as the committee considers necessary.

That the procedural affairs committee review and report to the House its observations and opinions on the operation of the standing and provisional orders of the House or by Mr. Speaker from time to time and that the committee also have power to review the operation of particular boards, agencies and commissions, for which annual reports have been tabled in the House and referred to it, and the committee may review the operation of these bodies as it selects with a view to reducing possible redundancy and overlapping.

That the eight points in the first paragraph on page 29 of the second interim report of the select committee on the fourth and fifth reports of the commission on the Legislature respecting proposed powers of committees, stand referred to the procedural affairs committee.

That there be referred to the procedural affairs committee the recommendation of the select committee for the enlargement of the committee staff of the Clerk's office so that clerks may be permanently assigned to specific committees.

That the procedural affairs committee be appointed for the full life of this Parliament with no substitution of members, but that substitution be permitted on all other standing committees provided that notice of substitution be given to the chairman of the committee prior to the commencement of the meeting.

That the members' services committee examine the services to members from time to time, and without interfering with the statutory responsibility of the Board of Internal Economy in such matters the committee be empowered to recommend to the consideration of the House matters it wishes to draw to the special attention of the board.

That all standing committees have the normal powers to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House, and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon with the usual power to send for persons, papers and things, as pro-

vided in section 35 of The Legislative Assembly Act.

Resolution concurred in.

NOTICE OF MOTION No. 1

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved resolution No. 1.

Resolved: That the Treasurer of Ontario be authorized to pay the salaries of the civil servants and other necessary payments pending the voting of supply for the period commencing April 1, 1977, and ending September 30, 1977, such payments to be charged to the proper appropriation following the voting of supply.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker—by the way, nothing that I have to say here is to be construed as being either obstructive or manipulative of the government.

Mr. Breithaupt: Or even wanting in confidence.

Mr. Singer: Is that the new line?

Mr. Breithaupt: Sunshine and light.

Mr. Lewis: That's the new line. Did you notice the co-operation on resolution No. 2? Not a thing. If you want it you are going to have to contrive it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You are going to—

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Don't play chicken, Stephen.

Mr. Conway: With that crowd across the floor it wouldn't be difficult.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, we considered this motion at some length in the caucus of the New Democratic Party. I would like to say that we are in support of the motion. We gave some consideration to the date which the Treasurer has chosen to insert in it, and we like it for two reasons: it's applicable whether there is an election and it's applicable whether there is not an election.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Very cogent.

Mr. Breithaupt: That is almost prescient, isn't it?

Mr. Renwick: It also achieves something that we in this party wanted for some considerable time, and that is that the fall session of the assembly would start in September rather than at some later date. With that in mind, we're quite prepared in this caucus to expedite the business of the House by granting supply for the payment of salaries and the payment of other necessary amounts

for the period commencing on April 1 and ending on September 30 of this year.

Mr. Nixon: In somewhat the same vein, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We can do without all of the side conversations. Will you conduct your private business outside?

Mr. Nixon: It is not our intention to oppose the motion. However, I did notice particularly that in Her Honour's speech on Tuesday, she brought to our attention the important steps taken by this Legislature to open up the debate, to open up the discussion of public business, not only to the members of the opposition but to the community at large.

Without going on to the further steps that the government indicates it intends to take in this connection, I am somewhat disappointed that the Treasurer has indicated he wants six months' interim supply rather than what I would like to consider a normal three months. As a matter of fact, we don't really have any normal amount of interim supply because in the last 18 months we have just got used to having a situation in the Legislature where the government does not demand and therefore receive a full year's supply even before the Legislature gets the opportunity to see the budget or to even complete the expenditure from the previous year.

In my time, going back some years now—and the Treasurer will recall—a standard motion was brought in. Just a pro forma motion in which the government asked the Legislature to approve all the expenditures covered by the estimates which sometimes has not even been made available. Then as the opposition members, I suppose, became more aware of the importance of that motion, which really set aside anything but the debate aspect of the discussion of the estimates, there were more and more comments made that we really ought not to vote a full year's supply in advance even before the discussion of the budget or before any examination of the estimates had come about.

[3:45]

In looking at what the custom is in other democratic institutions where this has been established, I believe it is normal to have quarterly supply, which means that on a more regular basis the members of the House, whether it's the Legislature or the House of Commons, have an opportunity to discuss on matters that pertain to the expenditure of public moneys certain aspects of public policy that they may think is important.

Certainly, there have been occasions in the House of Commons' history, not too ancient history, when the opposition, through their debate and through withholding supply, have been able to, at least, amend government policy in situations where it might not otherwise have been changeable. The opposition, of course, runs a real risk in so doing because it simply means that unless supply is voted the government cannot fulfil its legal requirements to send out certain emoluments and cheques for services rendered or otherwise. This is, of course, I suppose, the kind of lever that the government has in its own hands besides the votes of its supporters, whether they're in the majority or not.

Frankly, I'm disappointed that the Treasurer would indicate that he wants six months' supply. The efficacy of the date that's been pointed out by the member for Riverdale is an interesting one—it's good if there is an election, and it's good if there isn't. We might as well presume that we're going to be here at least until the end of June, which would have been, in my view, a suitable date for the interim supply to terminate.

As we know, in the event that the Legislature is not in session or the government or the members of this House are otherwise occupied, there is a procedure whereby the basic payments can be carried on until such time as the House does come together to give its approval, or otherwise, in the regular democratic process. So I would simply say, as the person whose amendment, some months ago, brought about something less than the full year interim supply that the Treasurer has been accustomed to, I'm disappointed that the date is not June 30, but for reasons that one can surmise we're not prepared to move an amendment because I presume that there will be a fall session of the Legislature in any event and we'll have an opportunity to discuss and examine the further expenditures of public funds at that time. Not all of you, but some of you will be here.

Mr. Breithaupt: I just have a few comments following those of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, Mr. Speaker. In the changes suggested to the rules and adopted by the House as they've now been reprinted pursuant to the adoption on December 16 last, there is now the additional new item 24 which states: "The motion for interim supply requires notice and such notice shall include a time limit of not more than six months."

As a result of the suggestions made by the select committee dealing with the fourth

and fifth reports of the Camp commission, which is generally referred to as the Morrow Select Committee after the hon. member who was its chairman, there was consideration made with respect to this particular matter that the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk and I and several others have spoken to on a number of occasions over the past several years. We have, of course, been concerned that the granting of interim supply, in effect, made really rather nugatory the passage of estimates from time to time and, to some extent at least, made a bit of a sham of the development in depth of discussions on estimates because the money, in fact, had already been approved.

As a result of the minority situation resulting from the last general election, we had for the first time an opportunity to have the usual term of interim supply somewhat shortened, as the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has already stated. I realize, of course, that the time limit, even now by the new rules, suggests that six months be a maximum time. The government, whichever party and whatever its members may be in years to come, I hope will at least allow that rule to stand so that we will have at least the double opportunity within a year to discuss the traditional general grievances which might come forward from time to time before, in fact, this House grants the power to spend funds to the government of the day.

I, too, would agree that from my point of view, having been involved as Treasury critic for some years and having an interest in this subject, a matter of three months would have been a sufficient time. I hope that in future years the government will consider this three-month term, because I think it sets a better balance for the operation of the Legislature than the passage of interim supply for this length of time.

I hope that the occasion will come forward in years to come that this matter can be dealt with on a somewhat shorter term and that the quarterly suggestion, as it appears in other Legislatures and in the House of Commons, will develop into a reasonable, balanced rule that will satisfy not only the needs of the ministry to have its estimates proceeded with and funds available in the alternative but also the needs of members to be able to speak on estimates and to realize that their comments might have some effect. I hope that may happen in the future but for the present we will accept this motion.

Resolution concurred in.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved second reading of Bill 2, An Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, does the minister have a statement that would perhaps occasion a somewhat more concise debate?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I didn't really have any prepared statement ready. I understand that copies of the bill have been distributed to both opposition House leaders and the critics for my ministry. The compendium of background information to the bill has also been distributed, which I think is only a one-page document, and explains fully the reason for this amendment to the Act, which basically changes one figure in one section of the Act to extend the provisions of this particular part of the Act for one further year. I refer to the part of the Act relating to the size and weights of commercial vehicles on our highways. We have draft legislation in process right now which I expect to introduce later on in this session and which would deal with this matter permanently.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I find the minister's comments somewhat less than helpful in an understanding of the reasons for the bill. I can well understand that the March 31, 1977, expiry date, which is currently in the bill and which we passed a year or so ago, extending it from 1976 to 1977, now requires action by the government in order to extend it for a further year.

I would have anticipated that the minister would have addressed himself in his comments about the bill as to why it is that it has taken so long for him to come to a conclusion as to what the amending legislation should be and to indicate quite clearly to the House the kind of amending legislation which he will be presenting to the assembly so that we can understand clearly whether or not we as a party should support the extension of these particular provisions. Obviously they have to be supported, and we certainly won't be dividing the House on the bill. They have to be supported simply because they extend the existing provisions, and there is no evidence from the minister, other than a hope which he only recently expressed, that amending legislation would be introduced.

As I understand it, the provisions of part VI and part VII of The Highway Traffic Act dealing with weights and loads and with

axle weights have been in the bill for some considerable period of time. There's been an alternative provision providing that compliance can be made by complying with either part VI or with part VII of The Highway Traffic Act. Now, of course, the particular intention of the Legislature as expressed in section 81(1) will not be operative because of this extension of the year in section 81(2).

I would hope that the minister, as he usually does, would give some really clear explanation of why for a second time we are being asked to extend a provision of the bill which permits compliance with part VI only up until March 31, 1977, rather than with respect to the alternative provisions provided in section 81(1), which would have permitted compliance with part VII and sections 65, 68, 69 and 70 or, alternatively, with the provisions of part VI.

I only wanted to comment to express my disappointment in the failure to have a concise explanatory statement made by the minister. We, of course, will support the extension of section 81(2) of The Highway Traffic Act for another year, but perhaps when the minister replies in this particular section of the debate, that is, on second reading, he will deal with those matters so that there won't be any need for us to ask that the bill go to committee of the whole House. I don't really think it deserves that consideration, if in fact the minister can make a response to the questions which I have raised.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, we have no objections to these proposed amendments which will allow the extensions. I would only say at this time that I am concerned about the difficulties that the ministry has had in the past enforcing these weight limitations, and I'm concerned about possibly the lack of uniformity of that enforcement, the lack of appropriate weighing facilities across the province. Recognizing the recommendations that we made in the interim report of the select committee on highway transportation of goods and recognizing that we are going to maintain a regulated system of transportation of goods in this province, the provision of such facilities, not only the weighing facilities but also the enforcement facilities, would serve us very well, I think, at this particular point in time.

I look forward to seeing the minister's new legislation when it comes, and I would encourage him to take into consideration when he examines the classifications of these vehicles the recommendations made by our select committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No further discussion? Does the minister have a response?

Hon. Mr. Snow: The provisions under the Act, as I understand them, are very lengthy and very complicated. There are many pages and sections of tables relating to the legal weights and sizes of vehicles. It has been found in the past five years or so that we've been operating under this system that, first of all, the industry has had a very difficult time in complying with these complicated charts and tables setting out the permissible weights, while at the same time the enforcement arm of the ministry and the police have had a very difficult time in respect to the enforcement.

With this problem before us, we have been doing a considerable amount of work in developing a new set of tables which will be a great deal less complicated, although to me, and I suppose to any of us that are not totally involved with these types of tables, they still look somewhat complicated. But certainly they are much easier to understand than the very complicated ones that we have at the present time.

[4:00]

It has taken some considerable period of time to develop these tables. I had hoped as late as a week or two ago that I would have had the new legislation ready to introduce to the House at the same time as this bill was introduced on the opening day of the Legislature—by my colleague due to my absence from the province.

We are concerned and want to improve this situation. We have this legislation almost prepared at this time; we are double-checking it and having certain consultation with the industry, both the transportation industry and, I believe, to some degree the manufacturing industry involved with the vehicles. I wanted to have all this matter checked out as much as we possibly could before introducing the bill but I intend to introduce it in the relatively near future. I had intended to introduce it along with this bill and to ask the House to pass this bill to keep the regulation in force and, at the same time, deal in the normal course of the rules of the House with the new bill but I just wasn't able to have it here on Tuesday.

Motion agreed to.

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 2, An Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, if the members of the Legislative Assembly will stand by, the Lieutenant Governor is coming in for royal assent.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario entered the chamber of the Legislative Assembly and took her seat upon the throne.

ROYAL ASSENT

Hon. P. M. McGibbon (Lieutenant Governor): Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly of the province has, at its present sitting thereof, passed a certain bill to which, in the name of and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk Assistant: The following is the title of the bill to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

Bill 2, An Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act.

Clerk of the House: In Her Majesty's name, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to this bill.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House, may I indicate to the House in accordance with the rule, since this is Thursday, the order of business for the following week.

Tomorrow we will take into consideration the reply to the Speech from the Throne with the mover and the seconder, and also tomorrow bring forward the motion as to the membership of the committees now that we've got the committee structure in place.

On Monday of next week, the leader of the official opposition takes part in the Throne debate, on Tuesday the leader of the third party, and then we'll follow that with a session going into the evening on Tuesday for Throne debate. We will in fact, according to the resolution passed on opening day, meet on Wednesday afternoon with further Throne debate.

It has been agreed to have Friday hours on Thursday, so that we will meet from 10 to 1 on Maundy Thursday, with the long weekend off, from Friday till we resume operations here on April 12.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Welch, the House adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)
Daily Edition



Fourth Session, 30th Parliament
Friday, April 1, 1977

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1977

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

OIL AND GAS PRICES

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, next Wednesday, April 6, the energy ministers of the 10 provinces and the government of Canada will meet in Ottawa for what seems to be shaping up as an annual ritual in this country. For the fourth successive year the government of Canada proposes to raise the price of crude oil and natural gas. This is part of the government of Canada's compulsive obsession about seeing to it that our domestic price for oil and natural gas year by year is deliberately inflated toward the artificially high world price.

Mr. Lewis: Well, welcome to the fold. It is about time.

Mr. Kerrio: You are getting as bad as Hydro.

Mr. Lewis: You reneged on every occasion until now. On every occasion you capitulated.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister has the floor.

Mr. Lewis: This is ridiculous, Mr. Speaker. It's a deathbed repentance so they can fashion an election platform.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I presume you agree.

Mr. Renwick: Let's dissolve this morning and get on with it.

Mr. Lewis: Who are you running against?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I feel it incumbent upon me to advise the House in advance of Ontario's position in this regard. First, we are opposed to any increase in the price of oil and natural gas—

Mr. Lewis: Well, what do you know?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: A gradual move to world prices.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —because the stated objective of this annual escalation—that of ensuring security of supply through expanded exploration and development—has not been met.

Mr. Lewis: You are too much.

Mr. Renwick: You are unbelievable.

Mr. Martel: Where do you find the courage?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We are opposed because it will create further unemployment when the unemployment rate in Canada is the highest it has been in 20 years with nearly a million Canadians out of work.

Mr. Deans: What hypocrisy.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We are opposed because it will deal yet another blow to the competitive capability of Canadian industry in world markets at a time when there is little competitive advantage remaining.

Mr. Renwick: Even Timbrell wouldn't have had the nerve to make this statement.

Mr. Lewis: You should be choking on it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We are opposed because it further fuels inflation—

Mr. Breithaupt: Like your deficit?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —places an unnecessary burden upon all sectors and individuals in our society—

Mr. Lewis: Now you are at the world price, you are fighting back.

Mr. Renwick: A magnificent elementary lesson.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —and places an intolerable burden upon those least able to bear it.

Mr. Lewis: The battle is lost.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Any increase in the domestic price of oil and natural gas at this time would be gouging the Ontario consumer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Can we not have interjections at a minimum this morning?

Mr. Renwick: Come on, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It is not adding anything to the procedure in this House. If you don't wish to listen to this, there is outside.

Mr. Lewis: This is provocation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Please contain yourselves. The hon. minister will continue.

Mr. Lewis: I can't.

Mr. Renwick: We will try.

Mr. Lewis: You lost the battle.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, these are some reasons why the government of Ontario is opposed to any increase at this time in the domestic price of crude oil and natural gas.

Mr. Lewis: What are going to do about it?

Mr. S. Smith: A blended price I suppose.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I would hope that the Ontario government's opposition to any such proposals is shared by all members of the Legislature—

Mr. Warner: Weren't you here last year?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —because I feel certain that I have the support of the consumers in this province. The public is fed up and rightly so. The public is prepared to make sacrifices, but only if those sacrifices deliver results.

Mr. Martel: It took you four years to find that out.

Mr. Breagh: Turn the lights off.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In terms of increases in the domestic price of crude oil, the promises, the commitments for a secure supply made by the government of Canada over the past three years have not been fulfilled.

Mr. Lewis: This is the most unbelievable statement.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: They have not even been seen to be fulfilled and the public knows it. The public knows that for the past three

years the government of Canada has justified the crude oil price increase on the premise that those funds were required to ensure a secure supply by expanding exploration and development.

Mr. MacDonald: I hope Claire Hoy takes this hypocrisy apart.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The public knows that this has not happened.

Mr. S. Smith: Is this a ministerial statement, Mr. Speaker?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: But the public does know—and this government knows—that the lion's share of these price increases has disappeared into the consolidated revenue funds of the government of Canada and the producing provinces.

Mr. Martel: You forgot the companies.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Too much of this additional revenue is being used for purposes completely unrelated to energy.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Ontario believes any national crude oil and natural gas pricing policy should meet six basic objectives.

Mr. Martel: Macdonald last night, Taylor today.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It should develop additional supplies of crude oil, natural gas, and, if need be, other sources of energy. It should protect the competitive position of Canada's industries. It should strengthen fiscal relationships amongst provinces. It should encourage the creation of new jobs.

Mr. Moffatt: It is an April Fool joke, that is what it is.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It should alleviate inflation; and it should be equitable.

Mr. Peterson: This is absolutely juvenile.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, members should be aware of the impact that every dollar per barrel increase in crude oil would have on Ontario consumers.

Mr. S. Smith: This is a political statement, not a ministerial statement.

Mr. Peterson: He is embarrassing the province.

An hon. member: Speak to Pierre.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The price of natural gas has been related to the price of crude oil.

An hon. member: See if you can get him to change his taxing—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Assuming the current relationships are maintained, the price of natural gas—as a direct consequence of each dollar a barrel increase in the price of crude oil—would rise by approximately 15 cents per thousand cubic feet.

Mr. Lewis: This is a complete reversal of everything you have done for the last four years.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The direct cost to the Ontario consumer for each dollar price rise per barrel of crude oil—

Mr. S. Smith: Where is the blended price? Where is that famous blend?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let's get on with the business of the House.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —and the attendant rise in natural gas, would be of the order of an additional \$300 million for the first year.

Each dollar increase in the price of oil would result in an increase of half a per cent in the consumer price index in the first year.

For each dollar increase in the price of oil, the cost of home heating oil for the average man on the street will rise by approximately \$25 over the last year. Also, if that person drives a car he is going to pay approximately \$20 more per year.

Mr. Lewis: Now just listen to this next paragraph. Just listen to this one.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, if the government of Canada once again hikes the price of crude oil, it will be the fourth year in a row in which the Ontario consumer has been duped in the name of ensuring security of supply.

Mr. Lewis: Can you believe this? On a point of order, why don't you admit that you have been a party to this for four years?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is no point of order.

Mr. Lewis: It is not a ministerial statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me it is a policy statement and the minister will continue.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Moreover, the Ontario government and Ontario consumers—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —do not accept the proposition advanced by the government of Canada that artificially high prices, unrelated to the cost of production, should be used to force conservation.

Mr. Cunningham: Just like Hydro.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If the price of oil and gas must be high because it costs more to find, produce and market, then so be it. But governments should not impose artificially high prices in the name of conservation.

Mr. Lewis: God, you are too much.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: As members are aware, for nearly two years the government of Ontario has concentrated on many energy saving projects through its energy management programme, primarily within its own ministries.

Interjections.

Mr. Renwick: Where is Claude Bennett? Still honeymooning?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Much has been accomplished, and Ontario's conservation programme is serving as a model for other jurisdictions.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The price of crude oil has increased by 160 per cent in the last three years.

Mr. Lewis: With your agreement.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Where has this money gone?

Mr. Lewis: To the companies, that is where it is going.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In addition, since 1975, every time a consumer of this province buys gasoline, he has been paying an extra 10 cents a gallon to the government of Canada.

Mr. Deans: And you agreed.

Mr. Breithaupt: You can always change your sales tax.

Mr. Renwick: Every time they raise the price—this government benefits.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: This was purportedly for the oil import compensation programme, but much of that money is now being used by the government of Canada for other purposes.

[10:15]

An hon. member: Shame.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The public has a right to expect the government of Canada will reduce that special tax and relieve the consumer of this unnecessary burden—

Mr. Nixon: Are you going to reduce yours? You are taking off 19 cents a gallon you know. That is almost twice what the federal people are taking.

Hon. Mr. Taylor:—either that, Mr. Speaker, or the right to know where that extra tax money is being spent and what contribution it is making to future energy supplies.

Moreover the city gate price of natural gas has increased 220 per cent since mid-1973. Where has this money gone? Again the public has a right to know.

Interjections.

Mr. Peterson: You tell them. The worst I have ever heard.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, earlier I mentioned the relationship of natural gas prices to crude oil prices.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Mr. Breithaupt: It must be April Fool's Day.

Mr. Lewis: This is the first time I have visited you were back in Comsoc.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Don't push it.

Mr. Breithaupt: With our luck he will go back.

Mrs. Campbell: Don't push that one.

Mr. Breithaupt: And no future considerations either.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Natural gas is about 85 per cent of an equivalent thermal value of a barrel of crude oil delivered in Toronto.

Mr. Martel: Have you had a change of heart over there, Bill?

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: This percentage relationship was established by the government of Canada.

Mr. Lewis: It is easier to run against them than us, I will grant you that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. Let's get on with the business of the House. Will the minister continue and—please, order. Now if members wish to remain in the chamber, keep the noise down. Will the hon. minister continue please?

Mr. Martel: Darcy is next this morning.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In Ontario's view there was no justification for establishing that relationship in the first place and certainly there is no justification for a further increase in the price of natural gas.

Mr. Martel: Why did you agree to it for three years?

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I believe Ontario stands to be reasonable, constructive and attuned to the realities confronting Canada today. Our economy and the average wage earner simply cannot afford another oil and gas price increase this year.

Mr. S. Smith: And in Edmonton as well. What happened to the blended price?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Speak to Pierre.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That is the message and the policy position which I intend to deliver in Ottawa on April 6, and I trust that I have the unanimous support of this House.

Interjections.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, my ministry will not be in a position for a few days to fully assess last night's budget address by the Minister of Finance.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: It contains many complex and technical changes which will take some time to digest in terms of their impact on the economy of Ontario—

Mr. Renwick: You will have indignation.

Mr. Breagh: Are you going to tell them Darcy?

Hon. Mr. McKeough:—which will take some time to digest in terms of their impact on the

economy of Ontario, our revenues and our taxpayers. However, I would like to make a few preliminary comments on those general matters of most concern to all of us.

Mr. Nixon: However.

Mr. Breithaupt: Without being provocative.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: These are not happy times for the economy. Some of our citizens are experiencing real hardship and this budget does not put an immediate end to any of their problems. Nevertheless I am encouraged that this is an honest budget. Mr. Macdonald has recognized the two primary concerns of unemployment and inflation—

Mr. MacDonald: The Liberals are more Tory than the Tories these days.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —and in his budget, concentrates on long-term performance to meet both challenges rather than short-term trade-offs.

Because we are a country that depends so much on international trade our economy can only produce real jobs and real gains for our citizens by expanding productive growth in the private sector. The budget will not accelerate economic recovery. But there are incentives to encourage the private sector to modernize, to create permanent jobs, and to face up to a very dangerous competitive situation. I believe this is honest medicine. It will lead to a safer and fairer economic future for our wage earners and our unemployed and it no doubt is the surest way to overcome the inflationary biases in the economy.

It is a budget that, in my view, attacks some long-term problems and provides some long-term directions. However, we have still not been presented with any kind of comprehensive strategy that this country desperately needs. We support his decision not to end the anti-inflation programme immediately.

As we said in the Throne Speech, we have made progress in moderating inflationary expectations—

Mr. Deans: And created unemployment.

Mr. Martel: On the backs of the unemployed.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —but we should not end the programme until the country has

developed a clear strategy to contain inflation after controls are lifted.

The projected budgetary deficit of \$7.16 billion is very large. The cash requirements have gone up by over \$1 billion. Both raise the danger of too much borrowing, which could crowd potential sources of capital for investment and for our municipalities. Even worse, it could lead to an acceleration in the money supply, which would certainly cause more inflation.

This deficit and other structural problems remaining in the economy provide a clear warning that public sector spending restraint must continue. Real co-operation between governments, business and labour must be intensified. Ontario will play its part on both counts in our budget, to be presented to the House on April 19, and by continuing the dialogue—

Mr. Renwick: It's too late.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —so ably initiated by the Premier (Mr. Davis) at his recent Partnership for Prosperity conference.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Mr. Lewis: First, I have a question of the Treasurer. Since the Treasurer, with his government, now stands almost alone in this country as applauding the budget last night, can he explain how he is willing to endorse—even in the short term—such a dreadful, ill-advised and stupid budget in its refusal to provide jobs? Surely that's where Ontario should now step in, this morning, today?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, was that a statement or a question by the Leader of the Opposition?

Mr. Lewis: It was a question.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: That was no question; it was a statement. He is playing politics and he knows it.

Mr. Lewis: You made a statement too. You jumped into bed with Donald S. MacDonald. It's incredible.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order please.

Mr. Lewis: Another question then, by way of a supplementary: Does the Treasurer not think that this is an opportunity for Ontario to canvass every other province in Canada and to present the federal government with

a united front which rejects its priorities in maintaining a lower cost of living, which everybody will agree with, on the backs of the unemployed; and insists on unemployment strategy being changed?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to canvass the other governments in this country. We have had discussions, as Ministers of Finance, as recently as a month and a half ago. The Ministers of Finance, I think, of all parts of this country remain determined to fight inflation.

Mr. Lewis: Obviously.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: They remain determined in the fact that government spending and deficit spending is not the solution to our problem.

Mr. Lewis: With a million unemployed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, this is not a debate.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: You would have us in the same mess that the United Kingdom is in, dragged down by socialist policies.

Interjections.

Mr. Renwick: You create the jobs; they'll give us the money.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Lewis: By way of a supplementary, does the Treasurer and the government he represents really believe that there is a twitch of fairness in federal Liberal and provincial Tory policy which permits a million people unemployed in 1977 without one significant economic response? What's wrong with you people?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am glad you are interested in jobs at last. I have wondered for the last three years.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, what's right with people on this side of the House is that we're prepared to say what we think is right for the economy in the long run and what we are not prepared to do—

Mr. Lewis: You should call the election in Ontario.

Mr. S. Smith: That's a good question.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: What we are not prepared to do is to refuse to face up to problems in the economy, which the NDP won't face up to.

Mr. Renwick: We faced up. You were the government and you created this problem.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: They go on playing politics on the backs of the unemployed.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order; order, please. This is a fine example, I'm sure, that is being witnessed by our guests in the galleries.

Mr. Lewis: Sorry to destroy the decorum, Mr. Speaker. It is of no consequence, the issue, I know.

Mr. Speaker: The issue is.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask one last temperate supplementary of the Treasurer? Can I ask the minister how he is going to reconcile last night's budget with page 8 of his own Throne Speech in which, in a preamble, he talked about the need to create jobs and then said, and I quote: "To this end it is hoped that significant assistance will be furnished through the federal budget to be presented on March 31. In turn Ontario will complement federal action."

Mr. Deans: How do you complement that?

Mr. Lewis: Since there are no actions to complement, why does he stand and endorse the federal budget?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, the member obviously makes light of the increases in Mr. Macdonald's budget in terms of the Canada works programme. Whether that is sufficient or not, I can take issue with that. I think perhaps he might have done more by reordering priorities within a very large and swollen deficit to concern himself with, particularly, youth unemployment this summer. As to the second part of the members question, what we will do to complement his actions, whether they were adequate or not, will be known on April 19.

OIL AND GAS PRICES

Mr. Lewis: A question for the Minister of Energy: Can I ask the minister why he did not include in his statement to the House the fact that the government of Ontario participated willingly in the decision to increase the price of oil in the last three years on those successive occasions when it was fought bitterly in the House, why he did not explain in the statement, therefore, that the prices he outlines now are the responsibility

of his government, and how, therefore, he expects to have any credibility at all when he goes to Ottawa, since he is as much responsible for the duping as are the people in Ottawa?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Leader of the Opposition is misleading, and I won't say deliberately, the members of this House.

Mr. Martel: What is your point of order?

Hon. Mr. Davis: The point of order is very simple. The Leader of the Opposition said this province willingly joined in the price increases that were imposed by the government of Canada, and to say we did that willingly is just totally and absolutely wrong—

Mr. Martel: He hasn't got a point of order.

Mr. S. Smith: He hasn't got a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and the Leader of the Opposition knows it.

Mr. Martel: That is not a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You are wrong. It is a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is a point of order.

Mr. Deans: It is a point of view.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: It is a point of information, not a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Can we now get back to a more orderly question period? I think there was a question asked of the Minister of Energy.

Mr. Lewis: On the point of order.

Mr. Martel: He didn't have one.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I don't need any assistance from the member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Martel: Well, you sure do.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Leader of the Opposition has the floor.

Mr. Martel: Because he's the Premier, you know.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, with respect, the Premier said I was misleading the House. I

want to say to you again, Mr. Speaker, that I stated exactly and precisely what I believe to be true. I always thought the Premier's position was mere posturing and when it came down to it, he accepted those price increases—

Mr. Breithaupt: This is an abuse of the question period.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: —and that's not misleading.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: When it comes to posturing, we're rank amateurs compared to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Nixon: The Speaker is standing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Now, can we get back to the question that was asked? The hon. minister, I believe.

Mr. Lewis: I think you should draw the Premier to order.

Mr. MacDonald: If you are not going to draw the Premier to order you're causing chaos in the House yourself.

Mr. Martel: Sure, he wanted a point of information defined.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy I believe was asked a question.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I just reaffirm—

Mr. Bain: Your position?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Exactly, because either the members opposite refuse to understand the problem and the issues and the involvements—

Mr. Bain: The problem is we do understand.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —or they are playing cheap politics with a very serious question of energy.

Mr. Renwick: You were wrong.

Mr. S. Smith: You want to play politics? That's great.

An hon. member: Bring on the Energy estimates.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The version that the members opposite have manifested today in connection with this statement would indicate to me at least, and I presume to the public, that they are not in support of a hold-the-line price on crude oil and natural gas.

Mr. Renwick: Don't waste our time.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: They are looking for a further price increase. Now, they should know that when it comes to the pricing of crude oil—and again, as they should appreciate if they don't, the price of natural gas is tied in with that—there are some oil-producing provinces in this country—

Mr. Renwick: We appreciated it a long time ago.

[10:30]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —who feel that they have the prerogative to negotiate with the federal government in terms of what the price should be; and, certainly in one instance that I'm aware of, feel that Ontario does not even have a position. I think that Ontario does have a position—

Mr. Martel: A new one?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —because, surely, if we represent 8.5 million consumers in this country we do have a position on behalf of those consumers.

Mr. Riddell: You sure don't have an energy policy.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think the economic well-being of this province has a very decided effect and impact on the economic welfare of the rest of Canada. Therefore, I do think that we have a position; I'm just saying that we do not have a veto position. We cannot unilaterally declare what the price will be or whether there will be no price. But we have taken a position, a strong position. Frankly, I'm discouraged to hear from you and from the other opposition parties that you appear to be not in support of a hold-the-line situation.

Mr. Renwick: You have adopted our policy. Stop that and sit down.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well, you're deriding. I can only interpret your outbursts as opposition to a position that we are taking on behalf of the consumers of this province.

Mr. Renwick: You have adopted our policy.

Mr. MacDonald: The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) has milked the prices.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: Can I assume that the minister is going to go to this conference that he's outlined for us, and

present, once again, the same peculiar blending proposal that this government contributed to the last meeting that was held of this nature? Or is there some change in Ontario's position? And, furthermore, does he have some concrete proposal for convincing Mr. Loughheed not to push for a further increase at this time?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If the hon. leader of the third party had listened to my statement, it indicates what the provincial position is at that conference. It does not include a proposal for blending—

Mr. S. Smith: No blending.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What it is is a hold-firm on the present price of crude oil and natural gas.

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: Further supplementary: Can he explain to us why the province has backed away from this blending proposal which was presented to us in such detail and with such fanfare just a few months ago?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Very simply, Mr. Speaker, this position was put forward very forcefully last year. It was rejected. The position that we're taking this year is simply that our economy and the people of this province cannot afford a further increase in the price of oil, which, of course, reflects in regard to natural gas.

Mr. Renwick: That's our position.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. di Santo: Supplementary: Is the minister aware that the cost of oil is advancing inflation by 30 per cent in Canada? And is the minister aware that we don't know at this point what the structure of the cost of oil is, and that the federal government has to rely completely on the figures given it by the companies? Therefore, is the minister prepared, at the next conference, to ask that the price be frozen until we know exactly what the cost is of every single barrel of oil?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, may I say that when we talk about the increase in the price of a barrel of crude oil, really what we're talking about is the increase in government take; because 70 per cent—

Interjections.

Mr. Renwick: You are not talking about that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You agree, you want more and more government take. We don't. At least 70 per cent.

Mr. Lewis: We are talking about the oil cost—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Look, do you want to hear it or don't you? Are you really, sincerely interested in the energy costs? Are you interested in oil costs and gasoline costs in this province? Or do you care at all about the consumer?

Mr. Renwick: Come on, you are in bed with the oil companies.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Apparently you don't. What I'm telling the members is that at least 70 per cent of the price increase goes in forms of government take—to the oil-producing provinces and to the government of Canada.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's right.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The opposition is in support of that. Obviously they are in support of that; they want further increases. Over here we don't want further increases in the price of oil and gas.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary: Knowing as he does that his position is unrealistic and knowing that prices are going up and that this is just a fatuous political response, what I want to know from the minister is what contingency plans has he made that he can handle in this province, without just constantly complaining, to change pricing structures or to go to inverted pricing structures to moderate the effect on the Ontario economy? That is the only thing the government can handle, so why sit around complaining and squawking, which is all you do, about things that are not in your control.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been asked.

Mr. Peterson: What is the government going to do here in Ontario tomorrow?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: First of all, I do not accept the member's defeatist attitude. He may subscribe to the present federal government's policy of tagging along to the artificially high world price of oil. As he knows, that's set by a cartel; it's unrelated to the cost of production of oil. A barrel of oil has increased six times in the last three years. He may subscribe to that, but we don't.

Mr. Nixon: You are drilling for votes, not oil.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It is not related to the cost of oil.

Mr. Breaugh: You should go back to the Flat Earth Society.

Mr. Nixon: You supported it every time.

Mr. Peterson: What are you going to do about Ontario?

BARRIE ANNEXATION PROPOSAL

Mr. S. Smith: I would like to start with a question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. What is the minister's opinion and that of his staff regarding the designation of 13,600 acres of prime farmland on the outskirts of Barrie for annexation and development?

Hon. W. Newman: My only comment at this point in time is that this is an annexation application and I am quite sure our guidelines will certainly be kept in mind in the development of that property.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, since the minister is aware that the Treasurer has intervened at the OMB in favour of this proposal, will he table the letter sent by the foodland development branch to the Treasurer protesting the unnecessary loss of this vital farmland?

Hon. W. Newman: Any letter I have is public information. I don't hide anything from anyone.

Mr. S. Smith: Will the minister table that letter?

Hon. W. Newman: I'd like to review it, but I think probably I can let the member see the letter, yes. I have nothing to hide.

LEAD CONTAMINATION

Mr. S. Smith: A question for the Minister of the Environment: Can he please clarify his position regarding the removal of lead-contaminated soils in Toronto and can he explain why it is that the polluters in this instance are not being made collectively to pay the whole cost of the operation necessitated basically by the fact that lead from these various smelters has required us to have to remove that soil? Irrespective of the fact, as he mentioned in his letter of March 30, that there may be other sources of

lead, surely he has to agree that the only reason the soil has to be removed is because of the lead from those particular smelters? Why, therefore, is the polluter not paying; why is the public having to pay so much of this cost?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The fact is there has been no concrete established fact that only those plants are responsible for contaminating the soil in that particular area. Certainly, if the companies refuse to pay the total cost of the cleanup, it would mean that the province would have to sue those companies—

Mr. Singer: Oh, dear, shy away from that. The polluter will pay! Remember Dow.

Mr. Swart: Like Dow Chemical.

Mr. Singer: The polluter will pay; one of the great aspirations of all time.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —and be involved in lengthy court hearings, probably taking, like Dow, three or four years of costly litigation. So the idea is, first of all, that the contaminated soil be removed and be replaced. It can only be done during certain times of the year, such as this time of year. At the present time, Hydro is laying a cable across many of those properties thereby mitigating or reducing the overall cost of removing the soil. Therefore, negotiations were going on between the committee and the companies to get the companies to pay a fair share of the cost of removing the contaminated soil.

As I indicated during the last session of the House, the prime objective here is to get rid of the contaminated soil and to decide then who should pay the total cost or part of the cost of the removal. As my correspondence indicates, there has been no decision as to whether or not we are satisfied with the companies' offer to pay a share of the cost of removal. The overall cost has been substantially reduced because of Hydro's involvement in laying a cable. We're talking a maximum of about \$70,000. If we can get the companies to pay about half of that, it seems to make more sense than in getting involved in costly litigation—

Mr. Breithaupt: That's called public bargaining.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —and above all, postponing the removal of the contaminated soil.

Mr. S. Smith: I have a supplementary. If, in fact, the so-called costly litigation is going to make it impossible to recover even the \$70,000 from three companies—which doesn't strike me as that much money, given the volume of business these companies do—if

costly litigation stands in the way of even a simple case of this kind, what meaning does the phrase "the polluter must pay" have in the province of Ontario? Are you prepared to bring forward legislation to give that phrase, that clause, some meaning, or are you just going to wave it around as a type of slogan totally devoid of real purpose and substance?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The hon member, Mr. Speaker, has obviously not read any of the reports that resulted from lengthy lead hearings—

Mr. Nixon: We read your former speeches.

An hon. member: We read about Dow Chemical.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —and the complication involved when you have three or four or five companies involving a very large number of homes over a long period of time. There are also other facilities in that area. Some are municipal facilities which have contributed to the lead contamination problem. All I'm saying at this time is that there has been no decision made as to whether or not the companies will agree to pay a reasonable share of the part of that cost or whether we, in fact, pay the total share and take action against the companies to recover that share. There has been no decision. Negotiations regarding their share will continue.

I indicated last year that I thought a one-third, one-third, one-third arrangement was fairly reasonable. That involves the city.

Mr. S. Smith: They offered \$7,000 each.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The city has refused to pay any amount; therefore, the negotiations go on between the province and the companies.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, by way of a supplementary question, will the minister give a commitment to this House that having used public moneys for the immediate removal of the topsoil in the area—particularly in my riding where we have Canada Metal; or to solve that problem—will the minister give a commitment to this House that, if his negotiations are unsuccessful with the companies, he will take the matter to the court for a final decision in order to recover for the public Treasury the expenditure of public funds?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The answer is yes.

Mr. Singer: I wonder if the minister could tell us if his philosophy has changed since that June afternoon in 1971 when he pounded

his desk and said, "The polluter will pay," and forthwith announced a lawsuit against Dow Chemical—for, what, \$25 million?—and why he has today said that he is concerned about the cost of litigation? He wasn't then, and the Dow action has cost the government at least \$2 million in costs to this point. Has his philosophy substantially changed since that time?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: No, my philosophy hasn't changed. I still believe that basically our philosophy and policy should be that the polluter must pay, and we've been consistent about that. But as I indicated there is some difference between the Dow case—

Mr. Singer: I see.

[10:45]

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —and a case involving four or five companies in a very complicated matter, as indicated by the lengthy reports we've had as a result of hearings. We've learned from Dow, I think. We have learned a little bit from Dow. We have learned, for example, just how effective our legislation can be and how effective—

Mr. Singer: Yes, right; how to spend but provide no solution.

Mr. Breithaupt: And how deep the river is.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The common law itself, of course, left something to be desired. So the legislation has been amended. We are satisfied with our present legislation.

Mr. S. Smith: Bring in a proper Act. Come on.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: All I want to say is, just don't compare apples with oranges.

Mr. Nixon: You mean lead and mercury.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

Mr. Warner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Premier—

Mr. Singer: Supplementary.

Mrs. Campbell: I thought there were more supplementaries.

Mr. S. Smith: There are still some supplementaries, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. We have spent quite a bit of time on these subjects. We have used 25 minutes now. If you want the question period to be effective you have got to abide by your own instructions. There should

be time to come back if there are further questions on it. The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. Warner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Premier: Since the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) has been unsuccessful during the past six months in convincing her cabinet colleagues, could the Premier show some leadership with the cabinet in trying to persuade them that the minimum wage should be increased from \$2.65 an hour to at least \$3 an hour, knowing full well that the AIB has already told us that anything up to \$3.50 an hour will be exempt from the AIB guidelines?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would only say to the hon. member that our colleague, the Minister of Labour, has very little difficulty in persuading her fellow ministers on many vital issues. If the hon. member is asking me whether at this point in time we are going to increase the minimum wage to the figure that he has mentioned, I have to say to him that at this time the answer is no.

Mr. Warner: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Since the Premier is so sure that the Minister of Labour will be successful, that her submission to cabinet on September 24 has not been ignored, could he then tell me what figure we will see as the minimum wage in the next few weeks?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, Mr. Speaker, I just cannot tell him.

Mr. Peterson: I am glad to see the Premier using yes and no for a change.

DRIVERS' MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications: Now that his ministry requires that holders of drivers' licences in certain categories will be required to have medical examinations—for example, truck drivers—would he consider recommending to the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) amending section 49, subsection 1, part V of the regulations under The Health Insurance Act, which precludes legal requirements or proceedings from being services covered under the plan?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I hadn't thought of making that suggestion to my colleague, but I will discuss it with him.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary on this, if I might, is the minister aware that what has happened is that many truck drivers, including some farmers who only need the licence for the small amount of trucking they do, have gone to their physicians to receive their annual checkup to use it for the purpose of these licence applications and have been told that because of that particular clause they have to pay for it? If the minister is aware that an ordinary citizen is allowed one checkup a year under OHIP, can he please persuade his fellow minister to permit that one checkup to be utilized for the driving licence application?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I am aware of this situation, Mr. Speaker. I have, of course, no jurisdiction in my ministry on that. I will discuss it with the Minister of Health. I do know that the policy under OHIP is that medical examinations for, I guess the easiest way to explain it, commercial reasons are not covered under the plan. If you need a medical examination as a condition of employment it is not covered. Of course, normally the employer pays for that examination.

An hon. member: What about the self-employed?

Hon. Mr. Snow: As for their examinations for the driving licences, I understand in some cases the employer company is voluntarily paying for these examinations because most of the companies—in fact all that I know of—are very much in support of our new system. Of course when this is a cost of employment. I consider it somewhat similar to the things the federal government had in mind two years ago when they allowed a deduction in your income tax, which I believe was increased by Mr. MacDonald last night. They raised it from \$150 to \$250 to cover items such as cost of employment, such as tools that a carpenter or a bricklayer or an auto mechanic has to buy. This is more or less a tool that a commercial truck driver or bus driver has to buy.

I understand that these examinations are costing in the neighbourhood of \$20 to \$25, depending I guess upon the doctor, for the one class of licence, the class D licence, which is the most common one. The examination is only required once. For some of the other classes of licences the tests will be required every three years. As the hon. member for Grey-Bruce knows, this is very similar to what he and I go through every six months or every year in our medical examination for our private or commercial or airline pilot's licence. We are required to supply

that medical to the federal Ministry of Transport and, of course, that is not covered and we have to pay for it ourselves. So I think there are many different categories involved of this type of medical.

Mr. Kerrio: Supplementary: Is the minister aware that many hundreds of these drivers are self-employed, or and in fact, work for small companies and that they are not going to be subsidized in any way and that they are going to suffer a hardship? These are the people that I think we are genuinely concerned about.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Well, yes, of course. I thought I covered that in my previous answer. I am aware that some companies are paying these costs. But there is no compulsion on the company to do so. Of course I am aware of the self-employed individual where this is a cost—whether it is a one-time cost for a class D licence or a once-every-three-years cost for a class A licence. I am sure in some of the agreements that may be entered into in the future that may be a subject of negotiation, but that doesn't help the private businessman who requires the licence for his own truck.

But as I explained before, I feel that with the provision in The Income Tax Act allowing this to be a deductible item or considering it as part of the cost of employment package, some compensation is being given to the individual that requires this licence, the same as the individual that has to buy tools for his trade.

CONSUMERS ROAD INDUSTRIAL SUBDIVISION

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications: I was reading last evening, and I handed to the minister a few moments ago, the Wednesday March 30 edition of the Willowdale weekly newspaper, the Mirror. The headline on the front page states: "Plan to End Traffic Mess Gets the Axe."

The story states that an MTC—

Some hon. members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Williams: The story states that an MTC position paper has turned down a Metro Toronto underpass proposal to alleviate traffic problems in the Consumers Road industrial subdivision. I have two questions for the minister related to this topic. Firstly, on the basis of his past in-

terest in this matter, can I have his assurance that he will agree to an early meeting with the local provincial and municipal elected representatives—

Mr. Makarchuk: Why don't you just walk down?

Mr. Williams: —along with the representatives for the affected industrial and residential area? And secondly, could the minister assure me that the discussions will not only relate to a review and assessment of that position paper but to the other related proposals that have been put forward by the Metropolitan Toronto corporation? Some of these proposals will require approvals of the government of this province.

Mr. Singer: Is this a speech or a question?

Mr. Peterson: This is a serious abuse of the question period.

Hon. Mr. Snow: As the hon. member knows, over the past year I have met several times with him and with other elected representatives, both municipal and provincial, regarding this matter. Several meetings have been carried out by staff of Metropolitan Toronto, the borough of Scarborough, the borough of North York and my staff. The latest report I had was that at the last meeting four options were put forward, I believe, by the Metro traffic and roads planners. I'm not aware of any position taken on those options by the ministry at this time.

Certainly we did take a position on the one proposal that was put forward last fall where it was suggested that a direct access ramp off the main high speed ramp of Highway 401 go into this industrial development, which I definitely turned down. It's just totally unacceptable from a safety and traffic standpoint to have an access ramp to an industrial subdivision coming off the main high speed ramp at one of the main interchanges of this province.

Mr. Singer: It would be nice if they talked about this in the Throne debate or something.

Mr. Williams: Supplementary: The minister is aware of course that this new proposal, which also relates to Highway 401, is totally unrelated to the submission that we discussed earlier last summer and, therefore, it's a question for further consideration.

Interjections.

Mr. Singer: Why don't you get on the list for the Throne debate?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, you have got to control that kind of nonsense.

Hon. W. Newman: Why don't you leave now then?

Mr. Speaker: That's not the only nonsense I've heard around here this morning, I might say. May I just remind the hon. members there have been some comments about the preamble to a question. Occasionally in order to delineate the area of a question, there has to be a brief preamble. I would remind all members on all sides—and you're all offenders—

Mr. Singer: Not to read the Don Mills Mirror at length.

Mr. Speaker: —it's not always on the other side—the preamble should be as brief as possible. It should simply point out the area of the question and then the question should be asked and asked once. The hon. member for Peterborough (Ms. Sandeman) will do just that, I'm sure.

Mr. Williams: On a point of order, I had asked a supplementary question, to which I am entitled to an answer.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, if there is an answer. I thought the minister had completed his answer.

Mr. Williams: I haven't had an answer as yet. I was interrupted.

Mr. Singer: He shook his head.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Peterson: Is there not a rule about boring everybody silly, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: I felt the minister had completed his answer. Is there an answer to the addendum there?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The date is correct, I think, on the calendar today.

Hon. Mr. Snow: In trying to answer the supplementary, I am aware that the four alternatives that were put forward at the last meeting do not involve the high speed ramp that was a part of their previous three submissions which I had to turn down.

ACCESS BY DISABLED TO BUILDINGS

Ms. Sandeman: I have a question for the Provincial Secretary for Social Development.

Is the minister aware that because of the long list of exclusions under section 5 of the Ontario Building Code, the disabled population of this province is still not assured access to buildings such as churches, medical centres, convalescent homes, homes for aged and a long, long list?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Yes, I am aware of it. I've had recommendations from the Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped and we are attempting to deal with it.

Ms. Sandeman: Supplementary: Could the minister assure us that her attempts to deal with it will include making her colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman), aware that he must amend his Act now?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I assure the member that the minister would be very amenable to that suggestion.

TOWNSEND TOWNSITE

Mr. G. I. Miller: In view of the fact that the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) is not here this morning, I'd like to put a question to the Premier. Since the Townsend townsite is located in my riding and in view of the fact that agriculture requires many years of planning in advance, I wonder if the initial plans for the Townsend townsite have been finalized and when they may be available?

[11:00]

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think that the Minister of Housing will have a reply for the hon. member in the next few days. If he would exercise some restraint, as I know he does from time to time, the minister may have an answer for him some time in the latter part of the week, next week that is.

An hon. member: Good Friday?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Good Friday.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Wel-land-Thorold.

FARM INCOME STABILIZATION PLAN

Mr. Swart: My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. In view of his alleged concern, as carried in this morning's paper, for the Niagara fruit and grape growers, is he now going to bring in an amendment to the farm income stabilization

bill to provide coverage for their products? Secondly, will he also bring in an amendment to provide that the stabilization price will at least equal all the costs of production? Or is he going to go on slavishly following the federal pattern in both of these matters?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. member doesn't realize we passed a bill in this House last fall.

Mr. Swart: That's not an answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. W. Newman: I think he is not aware of the fact that it covers those commodities at a certain level.

Mr. MacDonald: At five per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further questions? The member for Niagara Falls.

ALUMINUM WIRING

Mr. Kerrio: I have a question of the Minister of Energy, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister aware of the grave dangers that are presented to many homeowners in this province by aluminum wiring; and an admission by Hydro in some of their cautions that if you see smoke coming out of a receptacle you should take some kind of action? I wonder if he is aware of these dangers.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the concerns as expressed by many persons in regard to aluminum wiring.

Mr. Eakins: Blame it on the feds, Jim.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I believe that matter is being addressed by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations as it comes under his jurisdiction.

Mr. Singer: What address is that?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: As a matter of fact, if the hon. member redirected that question he may be able to amplify what they may have in mind in that ministry.

Mr. Singer: Is he making a speech to the aluminum wire producers or what?

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. minister referring it to the other minister? Is that what I understand?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, of course we're aware of these concerns. They

have been expressed to us periodically over the last few years. I expect we'll have some announcement to make in the near future.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Durham—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: One final supplementary.

Mr. Kerrio: Is the minister aware of the fact that there are some jurisdictions within this province that already ban aluminum wiring? Is he prepared to ban it until such time as we have a firm policy about it and see that it's safe for the people of this province?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the fact that some of these jurisdictions in the province have taken that action. Two of them happen to be in my constituency, so I'm fully aware of their actions.

Last year we asked the federal government, under The Hazardous Products Act, to impose a ban which they have every right to do. They refused to do that. We do not feel, at this time, that the Ontario Building Code should be used to ban the use of a product which, in fact, is not being used in construction today. There is not much point in it. We're concerned about the existing situation, where it's already been installed.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Durham East had a supplementary on that question?

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: No, this will be the final one.

Mr. Peterson: Well, Mr. Speaker, is there only one supplementary here?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The only supplementary has been from the member for Niagara Falls and we allow two supplementaries. I thought the member for Durham—

Mr. Peterson: You can't make that judgement now before you hear what the question is and only allow one supplementary. It's arbitrary.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Durham East wishes to ask a supplementary; I cut him off before because I thought he was going to ask a new question.

Mr. Hodgson: Get a towel and cry on that.

Mr. Moffatt: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister, as a supplementary, if there has been any gathering of data in insurance

terms, and from Ontario Hydro and from the Fire Marshal's office, to quantify whether or not there is any substantial difference between fires in houses equipped with aluminum wiring and those not equipped with aluminum wiring? Or is he going to continue with the same course of action, saying: "We don't know there's a problem because we have not gathered any information?"

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated there will be an announcement in the very near future and all of the data that we have will be made available at that time.

Mr. Peterson: One supplementary, Mr. Speaker; one short supplementary. It's very important.

An hon. member: As usual, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: They always are. Since it is a very important subject I will allow it.

Mr. Peterson: I just want to ask this: If the minister has the confidence to ask the federal government to ban aluminum wiring, and he feels sure of that and he has indeed requested that, then why doesn't he use his own power to ban it, in this jurisdiction at least, if the federal government won't proceed? I don't understand the rules that the minister operates under.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I think one of the problems that we have in this country now, and I am sure the hon. member would agree with me, is duplication and entanglement of legislation. The federal government has a piece of legislation known—

Mr. Peterson: The Hazardous Products Act.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The Hazardous Products Act should deal with hazardous products and there is no reason why this province or 10 provinces should start putting their own interpretation on the federal Act.

Mr. Peterson: Because lives are at stake when hazardous products are involved.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We suggested that they consider a ban. We suggested it because the parliamentary assistant to the minister at that time, Mr. Norman Cafik, was asking for it and we suggested that the minister might listen to his own parliamentary assistant.

Mr. Moffatt: That's exactly backward.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Obviously the minister at the time did not want to listen to

that. This government will be taking action. We will be making an announcement here in the very near future.

GO TRANSIT SERVICE

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications, without preamble: Will GO trains stop at the Exhibition Park for Blue Jay games?

Mr. Riddell: Lean over and ask him.

Mr. Eakins: Whisper in his ear.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I understand—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are wasting valuable time with the interjections. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I understand, Mr. Speaker, that TATO is arranging, where possible, to supply GO Transit services to the Exhibition Stadium as they do for the CNE itself, the Royal Winter Fair and the football games. There may be some problem in scheduling with afternoon games and the rush-hour situation, which doesn't happen the same with the other games, but to the extent possible they will be supplying a service to the stadium.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, by way of supplementary, will the minister, while he is giving consideration to that question, consider the installation of a GO train stop at De Grassi Street in the riding of Riverdale, at Queen Street?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Certainly.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I wasn't planning on that, Mr. Speaker.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I have a further question for the Premier with regard to the federal budget and its impact on unemployment. How can he continue his unqualified support for the anti-inflation programme, given that the programme has moderated inflation at the expense of employment; and given that the federal government has shown a complete unwillingness, or maybe an inability, to recognize that unemployment is the single major problem confronting people

in Canada and particularly in Ontario at the moment; and recognizing that the federal government has gone to extreme and unfair measures to restrict unemployment benefits to people who cannot find work in Ontario and throughout Canada as the result of the anti-inflation programme; and also recognizing that—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is getting to be a speech now. The hon. member for Wentworth realizes that, I am sure. He has asked the question. I think we will allow time for the answer.

Mr. Deans: I will ask by way of supplementary then. I have been told I can't ask any more in this part. I will ask it as a supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, that wasn't what I understood you to say. I thought you were suggesting that there shouldn't be any preambles or long speeches in terms of the questions.

Mr. S. Smith: Or the answers.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, I certainly am not going to debate whether there was a preamble or not. In an attempt to answer the question as I understood it—and that is, how does this government continue its unqualified support, which I think perhaps is not a proper way of describing it—I think this government has indicated very clearly, Mr. Speaker, that we support, and we have taken certain initiatives in terms of this process, some strategy that makes sense in terms of moving out of the control mechanisms. I would say this, and I think it's a view supported by a number of people, just to state that this week or next week or three months from now that without any planning, without any consideration of the impact on the people who will be very directly affected, and that means hundreds of thousands in this province, without some plan for doing this doesn't make sense. I said at the time the control programme was introduced, yes, we would support it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Deans: You got into it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Certainly we got into it that way. We had no alternative but to get into it that way—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —as well as the other provinces. The member's friends in Saskatchewan and Manitoba didn't object to it at that time.

Mr. Lewis: Associates.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, they are your associates. Don't forget that when you start discussing the price of energy.

Mr. Breithaupt: They are no longer friends, though.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The answer is very simple. We want to see a mechanism that is understood, one that is discussed with labour, with management, with the people who are directly affected by it, before the control programme is removed. It's as simple as that.

Mr. Renwick: You just want to talk; that is all you want to do.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary question—

Hon. Mr. Davis: If that is a supplementary from the member for Riverdale—

Mr. Speaker: No, there's no supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —he may want to talk, but we want to see results. That's why we're here and that's why you're going to stay over there.

Mr. Lewis: Then call it, call it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You will have your chance on Monday.

Mr. Lewis: But we can't get the supporters.

Mr. Renwick: I was hoping you'd call it yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary: Since it appears evident that many people are being impoverished by the actions of the Anti-Inflation Board, and your complicity in the actions of the Anti-Inflation Board, where is your manpower policy that you've been promising this Legislature for the last three years?

Mr. Breithaupt: Since the days of Jack McNie.

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, Mr. Speaker, I recognize that we all take poetic licence and there's no one more poetic than the member for Wentworth. Complicity is really not the right terminology. We're trying in this government, along with other

governments of Canada, to solve some pretty fundamental problems; problems that hon. members opposite don't understand. They have no sensitivity to them and I understand that. That's why I accept the question and the way it was phrased.

Mr. Makarchuk: Is that why you have a problem, because you don't understand—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: Is it fair that a burden should be carried by—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We're repeating the same questions.

VOTING QUALIFICATIONS

Mr. S. Smith: I direct a question to the Treasurer: In view of the forthcoming referendum or plebiscite in Hamilton regarding the Pan-Am Games, would the Treasurer please consider the possibility of bringing in, as quickly as possible, an amendment to The Municipal Elections Act, which would permit all qualified municipal voters to vote in a plebiscite?

By way of explanation, the Treasurer is probably aware that only landowners and those with 20-year leases can vote in a plebiscite if money is involved. It would be nice to have that changed in time for the Pan-Am plebiscite in Hamilton. It would be just a small amendment, which would, I'm sure, be supported by all sides of the House.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: That's a rather fundamental amendment. Money bylaws in this province are voted on by taxpayers and not by tenants. I don't necessarily say that's a view which should not be changed, but I think the member is talking about something very fundamental which we would want to consider.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: The Treasurer, surely, did not mean to make a distinction between taxpayers and tenants, did he? Surely he's aware that tenants pay property tax as part of the rent. In the rent review procedure that's considered part of the reason that rents can be charged and increased? Surely he recognizes that tenants are taxpayers, every bit as much as everyone else in a municipality?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I certainly recognize that. But I have to tell the member that it is a rather strongly held view in certain parts of Ontario—parts of Ontario which the member may not be familiar with, he could ask

some members of his caucus—that only taxpayers should vote on money bylaws.

Mr. MacDonald: It is a basic principle—

Mr. Breithaupt: They all pay taxes.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I am not endorsing that view at this moment. What I am saying is, the member is talking about a rather fundamental change, which I think would take some consideration.

Mr. S. Smith: Tenants are taxpayers.

UNITED ASBESTOS PLANT

Mr. Bain: I'd like to direct a question to the Premier. Considering that it has been almost a month since the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) and I, and the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. F. S. Miller) and the Premier, discussed United Asbestos, could he indicate to the House what the government is prepared to do to ensure that United Asbestos will reopen?

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member did visit, along with his leader, to discuss that issue. As I recall our discussion, the Minister of Natural Resources indicated that it was being considered by his ministry. I think he made a visit to that particular site himself. My recollection is, too, that he pointed out there were a number of difficulties involved in the situation. I won't remind the House of one of the things that he suggested, that helped create some of the problems at least, but I would suggest to the hon. member that he await the return of the minister, who will be here Monday and Tuesday, and get an up-to-date reply.

[11:15]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for St. George.

PERMANENT DISABILITY PENSIONS

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services.

Mr. Nixon: Don't kiss him, Margaret; hit him.

Mrs. Campbell: I am delighted with the change, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You'd better get used to change.

Mrs. Campbell: Has the minister addressed himself to the problem of the definition of

unemployability by reason of permanent disability and permanent disability, and could he share with the House what is to be done in this area; and has he, meanwhile, given consideration to the very serious plight of those on disability pensions who are living at a very low level of subsistence?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Maybe we should change back.

Mr. Breithaupt: Oh, no. We know that answer.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first part of that question—and I know the response yesterday when I gave a similar answer to another question—

Mrs. Campbell: Yes, don't go into the whole rigmarole.

Mr. Lewis: Just eliminate it.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —is that it is an area that I have asked to be reviewed, and I am reviewing with staff the whole question of that rather complex distinction between the unemployable, permanently unemployable, and those who are disabled. I would hope that in the course of the next few weeks I would be able to answer the member's question more fully in terms of where we might go from there.

With respect to the level of funding available for those on disability pensions, that, along with the level of funding for all persons on income maintenance, is presently under review. I would hope to have an announcement to make on that.

Mrs. Campbell: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, if I may—

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mrs. Campbell: Do I take it, then, that as a result of the answer given we are no longer going to be told in this House that nothing can be done about definitions unless we get the co-operation of those horrible federal people?

Hon. Mr. Davis: You are not going to hear that any more.

Mrs. Campbell: Do I take it that the minister's staff is going to be able to give him the assistance to make the change here?

Mr. Breithaupt: That's in quotes, of course.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I will be in a better position to answer that at some time in the near future, I would hope. I do understand that part of the problem has been the his-

torical development of these various programmes, where they have grown up on a piecemeal basis for specific individuals with specific problems. Over the years we have this anomaly where there are those who are classified as unemployable and those who are disabled. Their needs may not vary very greatly.

Mrs. Campbell: If at all.

Hon. Mr. Norton: But because of the agreements that exist with the federal government at the present time, the level of funding does vary. Now I am not casting all of the blame on the federal government, but it will require a co-operative effort to resolve the problem.

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary, the member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Martel: Can the minister tell us the difference between an unemployable and a disabled person?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not going to get drawn into that, because in all honesty that was one of the first questions I raised with the staff in this whole area of income support. I've had the same kinds of difficulties, I am sure, as the member, in trying to deal with that and explain it to those people who—

Mr. MacDonald: Ask the right question and you'll get the right answer.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —are in fact in that situation in my constituency as in the member's. The distinction, I understand, historically grew up on the basis of the kinds of needs those people were perceived to have in terms for special assistance, such as clothing and so on if they were classified as disabled. I want that to be reviewed to see if that is any longer relevant and if there is any way of simplifying it and making it more understandable for the recipients of income support under these programmes; to make it understandable or else to resolve that distinction.

Mr. Breithaupt: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Motions.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I have a motion but it's not quite ready yet. Perhaps at the ap-

propriate time we could revert to motions to bring it forward.

Mr. Speaker: We'll seek permission of the House at that time.

Introduction of bills.

Mr. Lewis: No, no. Now or never.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Consideration of the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Johnson moved that a humble address be presented to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To the Honourable P. M. McGibbon, OC, BA, LLD, DU (Ottawa), BAA (Theatre), Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

May it please Your Honour: We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us.

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege for me to move adoption of the Speech from the Throne of this, the fourth session of the 30th Parliament of Ontario. I do so with respect to this government and to Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor. I'm especially pleased, because a quarter of a century ago my predecessor, Mr. John Root, had the privilege of seconding the motion for adoption, presented by John Robarts, of the Throne Speech in the spring of 1952.

Mr. Martel: That's as far as it goes though.

Mr. Johnson: It is an honour for me to serve my constituency and to serve in Her Majesty's government here in Ontario in this the 25th year of her reign. I've served the people of Wellington-Dufferin-Peel since September, 1975. Mr. Root's tenure and my presence here confirm the solid support for Progressive Conservative government in our part of Ontario.

Mr. Breithaupt: By 600 votes.

Mr. Bain: What has it got the poor folks?

Mr. Johnson: Her Honour's Throne Speech stated very clearly the actions the government will take to address the economic, social and judicial needs of Ontario today, needs far different from those in 1952 but

needs which can be satisfied by this government just as they were then. The continuity of tenure of Progressive Conservative government in Ontario is testimony to that fact and a source of pride to me. I urge all members of this Legislature to support our legislative and administrative programmes. I request the support of this House simply because at a time of such economic uncertainty, a time when the definition of our nation is being questioned, we would serve our constituents best by solving problems rather than engaging in political rhetoric or partisan grandstanding.

Mr. Martel: What do you think the Minister of Energy (Mr. Taylor) was doing this morning?

Mr. Johnson: I am well aware of the role of opposition members to question the actions of government and believe it can be a most useful process. I also believe, however, that recent abuses of that role achieve nothing positive for the people of Ontario—

Mr. Ferrier: Come on!

Mr. Johnson: —and indeed have fostered an air of cynicism towards those involved in politics. Surely it is incumbent upon us all to prevent that from happening again. I would hope that in this session we can all act more responsibly and make this present minority situation work rather than destroy the credibility of our Legislature and those who participate in it.

Mr. Wildman: You can say that after listening to the Minister of Energy?

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, I would like first to complement our Premier (Mr. Davis) for the positive approach he is taking with regard to the province of Quebec and the intentions of its government to separate that province from this great Confederation.

Mr. Bain: En français.

Mr. Johnson: I, like the Premier, have a great love for Canada and believe through open discussion, such as the forum for Canadian destiny, we the citizens of Ontario and all Canadians can find a sense of common purpose and understanding for each other. That singularity of purpose will enable all Canadians to see the benefits of staying together as a family—a family of Canadians whose greatest asset is the accommodation of her cultural diversity. Let us not allow that asset to become our greatest liability.

I would also like to compliment the Premier on the establishment of a northern affairs ministry. I am confident that this ministry can address directly the problems of northern Ontario. The survival of the smaller and indeed dispersed communities of northern Ontario is critical to the survival of Ontario's economy.

Mr. Bain: Ask the Premier what he will do for the people of Matachewan.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Johnson: Local secondary manufacturing at the point of resource development will ensure that the economy of the north will continue to grow and, most importantly, will provide job opportunities for young people in that region of our province.

Mr. Martel: They are all down here because there are no jobs up there.

Mr. Johnson: The northern affairs ministry will bring government at the provincial level closer to the people of the north.

Mr. Martel: That's what Allan Lawrence said in 1970.

Mr. Wildman: It will be another barrier.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Wildman: How are you going to help Blind River?

Mr. Johnson: At the same time we must not forget the rural parts of the province.

Mr. Bain: They have been forgotten.

Mr. Johnson: In the past few years, with our preoccupation with the great problems faced in northern Ontario, we have often forgotten to mention our concern with the rural parts of southern Ontario.

Mr. Bain: Both the north and the rural south are forgotten.

Mr. Johnson: Much as northern Ontario needs industry both large and small, so does rural Ontario. To use my riding as an example, we face many of the same problems as do people living in the north.

Mr. Bain: Cross the floor!

Mr. Johnson: In particular we have had great difficulty in attracting small, clean industries. These industries tend to concentrate in the golden horseshoe. I am sure that my colleagues on all sides of the House would sympathize with that problem. I see

this as a concern second only to our concern for northern development.

Mr. Martel: The Tories have been in power for 34 years. What are they doing about it?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Johnson: Despite difficult times, tight money, and the demand by people for more services at a lesser cost, we on this side of the House have retained our commitment to rural Ontario. I have often thought that if there was any concept which could encapsulate what I feel as a member of this Legislature, and what this government feels as a partner in Confederation, it would be my and our commitment to people.

The initiatives announced in the Speech from the Throne, our new Ministry of Northern Affairs, our health care programme, our educational system and many other programmes demonstrate this government's and my concern for the ordinary citizens of Ontario.

Mr. Wildman: You missed all the problems you caused in 34 years.

[11:30]

Mr. Johnson: Let's glance for a moment at some of the programmes which demonstrate this government's intention to benefit people, all people. Small businesses are just one example of this government's commitment to people. I would at this time like to reconfirm my government's commitment to the small businesses of Ontario.

Mr. Bain: You are going to tax them more.

Mr. Eakins: You won't have any problems up there.

Mr. Johnson: No sector of our province is more important to the spirit and growth of this province than the people involved in small business. The essence of Ontario's society is the freedom, initiative and commitment to accomplishment that exists in small business. I would add, at the risk of angering the socialist segment of this House—

Mr. Martel: Watch the hordes.

Mr. Johnson: —that it is the commitment of people in small business to free enterprise that keeps Ontario strong. Whether they are involved in farming, manufacturing or retailing, small business people in Ontario are a priority of this government and will remain so.

Mr. Bain: Do you disavow the Blair commission proposal to tax them even more?

Mr. Johnson: It is the small businesses that provide employment opportunities in so many of our smaller communities. Clearly, we must continue to stress their importance and through the activities of the development corporations and small business assistance programmes, aid their growth.

Small businessmen are people too, and we must give them the same attention given to anyone else.

Mr. Philip: The same way you did for the oil companies?

Mr. Wildman: How about the small gas stations?

Mr. Johnson: My riding consists of small businesses, farming and some of the most pleasant small towns in Ontario, each part depending upon the interaction and support of the others for its survival. Although primarily a rural riding, we do have problems similar to those in the urban centres.

Mr. Bain: Yes, the government.

Mr. Johnson: Local transportation and local employment opportunities for young people are two of the greatest problems we in rural ridings face.

Mr. Wildman: How can you have problems? The Tories have been in power for 34 years.

Mr. Johnson: In Ottawa and Toronto people argue over how many buses and trains will be provided. In Wellington-Dufferin-Peel we are concerned that basic services be maintained and improved. We in rural communities need far better transit systems connecting us with larger cities and other communities within our regions. My government has as much of a commitment to transportation needs in rural as in urban communities. Senior citizens, commuters, young families and students all require better bus and, if possible, rail service.

Mr. Bain: If it goes the way it has been going there won't be any of either.

Mr. Johnson: With respect to employment, the problem is far too severe for the provincial government to solve on its own. However, as the Speech from the Throne indicates, we believe that all who wish to work should have the opportunity. Incentives to businesses to increase productivity and hence employment, summer job programmes for

students and a rational application of minimum wage laws and labour standards are all directed to providing more employment to people.

Small businesses in particular, if given the proper stimulus, could provide a great deal of employment for our pre-post-secondary youth. Farm vacation programmes such as the one practised successfully in Prince Edward Island and the farm income stabilization programme could provide a greater and more stable income for farmers and facilitate the hiring of more employees at reasonable wages.

All of these problems I have been discussing are faced by those of us who live outside the cities in northern and southern rural Ontario. They are difficult problems, no more so than in urban centres, but difficult problems nonetheless. I am sure, however, that my constituents and those similarly placed across the province will, with the help and concern of the provincial government, solve the problems facing them and Ontario today.

Mr. Speaker, Her Honour's speech outlined a number of actions which addressed directly the problems we as a government face. Those actions show leadership and initiative and adoption of that speech by this Legislature will show that we as legislators are going to get that job done. We will continue to provide programmes which meet the needs of Ontario society, programmes that are reasonable based on need and cost effectiveness.

Needs such as those of our senior citizens—financial assistance is required for senior-citizen homes and apartments. The provision of this form of assistance will relieve the pressure on hospitals and provide meaningful care to the people of Ontario who need our help the most.

Needs such as those of the agricultural community. The productivity of the agriculture industry in Ontario is a source of pride to all of us, yet there is still work to be done. Through tile drainage and other similar programmes, tens of millions of dollars have been committed to rural Ontario to increase productivity. Crop yield for tile-drained lands is estimated to be over double that of undrained lands. Ontario's commitment to food production and the well-being of the farm community is more than just talk, or rather obscure ideals. It is a solid commitment to people, a financial commitment to make farms grow. Marketing opportunities for our products, technology, innovations as a result of work from our agriculture colleges, and tariff changes will further aid the farmers in facing the cost pressures that exist today.

Let me emphasize here today the concern and understanding that this government has for our farmers. They are business people, working very hard, investing in the province with a personal commitment to prosperity and seeking nothing more than a fair profit. This government has ensured and will continue to ensure that a climate exists where they can achieve that single, reasonable and honourable objective.

Ontario has just experienced a period of excessive inflation which appears to be coming to an end. I'm sure all members now are aware of the unemployment problems that we face. Rest assured that we will take action to do what we can, this government, to aid in providing work for the people of Ontario, meaningful employment throughout Ontario.

Mr. Wildman: Things are pretty tough.

Mr. Johnson: But let us at the same time reconfirm our commitment to restraint in the public sector and assistance to the private sector.

Mr. Wildman: Can we really afford more years of you?

Mr. Johnson: This government has participated in the anti-inflation programme and we have succeeded. This government has exercised restraint as directed by the Premier and we have succeeded. This government is committed to the rights of individuals to strive for excellence and we have succeeded. This government is committed to free enterprise consistent with responsibility and we have succeeded. This government is committed to a judicial system equitable to all and we have succeeded. This government is committed to a strong Confederation, Canada, and we will succeed.

Mr. Deans: This government should be committed.

Mr. Johnson: I request the support of this House and the adoption of the Throne Speech in this the 25th year of Her Majesty's reign.

Mr. Moffatt: Before the member for London North starts, does he know where he is going?

Mr. Deans: Did he move to second some budget address?

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for London North is about to speak.

Mr. Shore: Mr. Speaker, as I have been given the distinction of seconding the motion put forward by my good friend and colleague,

the hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel, that the Speech from the Throne delivered so eloquently by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor be adopted, I cannot but feel that this represents a great and rare privilege. The Throne Speech is an all-embracing document offering us encouragement to face difficult tasks, expressing the hope and the confidence that we can overcome the obstacles that face Ontario and the challenge which now faces our nation.

Mr. Speaker, we now find ourselves at a crossroads.

Mr. Deans: Which way are you going?

Mr. Moffatt: There are four directions—which way are you going to go?

Mr. Shore: I know now where I'm going.

Mr. Philip: He wants to go straight up.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You guys wish you did know.

Mr. Riddell: You're not too sure of the people of London, though.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh yes, we are.

Mr. Shore: I have a lot of confidence in the people of London. The problem over there is that you have no confidence in yourselves.

Mr. Nixon: I guess Darcy remembers last year's speech because he walked out.

Mr. Shore: Mr. Speaker, there comes a time in the history of every nation when that nation must decide whether it can answer the question of its own survival. During this period of conflict and testing—

Mr. Bain: Are you going to declare a war on somebody?

Mr. Shore: —it is necessary that we, in Ontario, answer in a strong and firm voice. In this, as in so many other regards, I'm grateful for the leadership of our Premier, Mr. William Davis.

Mr. Moffatt: I'm sure you are the one who said, "Save us from Davis," last year.

Mr. Nixon: He must have some friends.

Mr. Shore: He is a man who has carried this recent burden—

Mr. Cunningham: You are just lucky there aren't four rows.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Eakins: He didn't say that last year.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for London North will continue.

Mr. Shore: —of responsibility with openness, sincerity and single-minded devotion.

Mr. Nixon: What a lot of crap.

Mr. Shore: The Premier has spoken clearly on this subject, travelling to Quebec, speaking to audiences in Ontario and throughout Canada, working to build a firm bulwark of dialogue, and establishing Ontario as a real leader in the battle to save Confederation. In the fire of, perhaps, the most serious crisis that we have ever had to face, our people can rest assured that this government will remain true to its goals, steadfast and determined.

Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to take this opportunity to be among the first in this session to offer to you my best wishes, along with your deputy. We are confident that you will preside over this chamber, demonstrating the same qualities of fairness and earnestness which have marked your service in the past.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today proudly—

Mr. Eakins: Your speech is better than last year, Marvin.

Mr. McCague: He has lots to talk about.

Mr. Shore: —representing the constituency of London North, a riding which has a unique and special place—

Mr. Ferrier: That's a Liberal commitment.

Mr. Shore: —in the history of this province as well as the annals of the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Deans: It certainly does.

Mr. Shore: For this is a riding whose boundaries take in parts of the area that were represented in this Legislature by such distinguished personalities as—

Mr. Cunningham: Gordon Walker.

Mr. Shore: —the former Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr. William Stewart, and the former Treasurer of Ontario, John White. And it cannot be forgotten—

Mr. Nixon: Is that South Cayuga John?

Mr. Shore: —that London North is the historic riding of the former Premier of Ontario, John Robarts—

Mr. Bain: Oh, that! Those good old days.

Mr. Shore: —a man whose name is synonymous with a whole air of integrity, good government and high ideals.

Mr. Moffatt: As opposed to—

Mr. Shore: From the first crack of an axe felling the trees that would become the first house at the forks of the Thames, London has led in the dynamic growth and prosperous development of the southwestern region of this great province of Ontario. A town by 1848—

Mr. Eakins: That's what Dave Peterson says.

Mr. Philip: He did a lot for the insurance companies.

[11:45]

Mr. Shore: —a city by 1854, London became, by virtue of its ideal location and industrious inhabitants, the industrial and financial hub of the region. Freely translated, the motto of the city's coat of arms reads: "Through labour and perseverance." Yes, through labour and perseverance the city I proudly call my home has become a city of more than 250,000 people, responsible for more than \$1 billion of manufacturing output each year.

London is as cosmopolitan in make-up as the fabric of Canada itself. Today, a street named after an old London location—Hyde Park, Covent Garden, Chelsea Green or Piccadilly—

Mr. Nixon: How about Cheapside?

Mr. Shore: —is likely as not to be the site of a Greek Orthodox Church, an Italian, German or Portuguese social club, a showing of works of art by a Dutch-Canadian painter or yet another example of the many cultural threads which make up the fabric of life in Canada.

Mr. Cunningham: How about the Hunt Club?

Mr. Shore: The cosmopolitan reality has come together in an atmosphere of understanding and equal opportunity to make London a dynamic and thriving community and the fourth largest city in this great province. What's more, it has come together in a manner which proves beyond doubt the practicality of cultural co-existence. In this regard there is the Folk Arts Council of Women, which is the umbrella for more than 70 ethnic organizations in that city. This spirit

of co-operation extends to many other institutions and thus has directly contributed to the quality of life in our city. This spirit is particularly evident in the contribution that labour, both organized and unorganized, is making to London's communal life.

If London is a microcosm of Ontario, the riding of London North is surely a mirror image of the Canadian social and economic scene. From the efficient and productive industrial concentration in the east of my riding, regarded as a model for environmental and antipollution practices, to the new, carefully planned and prestigious residential areas in the west, the riding covers the entire spectrum of sociological and economic desires as well as achievements. I note proudly the number of women in London North who are active in community, professional and public life.

Like many residents of London and London North, I first came to the city as a young man seeking a beginning. I was fortunate to choose London for many reasons, not the least of which was the fact that the University of Western Ontario, one of the oldest and most prestigious campuses in Canada, is located in this city and, I am proud to say, partially located in the riding of London North. My parents, non-affluent, had taken it as a great joy to have me attend the university. Today, the student population of this soon to be 100-year-old seat of learning numbers nearly 20,000, the second largest enrolment of all Ontario universities. Another important element in this community is Fanshawe College, an institution which has demonstrated initiative and flexibility in meeting educational challenges. The city itself is served by more than 100 elementary and secondary schools.

The fact that quality of life is highly regarded in London is testified to by our many volunteer and community organizations as well as by a strong and creative cultural scene. Fortunately for all of us in London, we are able to work from a broad base of good planning which goes back many years. There are, for example, nearly 2,000 acres of parks and playgrounds in this city and London is indeed coming into its own as a sports hub for all of southwestern Ontario.

Mr. Ferrier: London has a real good mayor.

Mr. Shore: Yes, it has got a fine mayor.

As a centre for head and regional offices of major enterprises such as London Life, Canada Trust, Labatts, Northern Life, General Motors and 3-M, London is emerging as a

bustling financial metropolis. In this ever-evolving community of competing and co-operative interests, fast and accurate reporting of news developments is assured by a concentration of media services. The media take seriously their responsibility to keep Londoners informed, and speaking personally as one who has been both lauded and roasted by them, I can personally attest to their tenacity.

While being proud of our accomplishments, Londoners cannot afford to lose sight of the problems which still confront us, for we share with the other cities in Ontario the whole series of challenges that are related to our increasing, complex, urban way of life. These are issues which all legislators can sympathize with. As a body we must stand together if we are to make London and her sister cities in this province the model for good living and environment.

Involved in public life because of my consistent and long-time commitment to free enterprise, educational opportunity, necessary reforms—

Mr. Nixon: I would say what an unfortunate word that was.

Mr. Shore:—and the struggle for individual rights, I have been able to find a welcome and true political home in the party in whose midst I now stand.

Mr. Kerrio: How can you say that?

Interjections.

Mr. Shore: Having grown with experience, I have come to realize how fundamental is the importance of leadership. I will not shrink from saying what must be said in reply to those who spend their time pointing fingers. On the issues that concern me most and should concern all of us—the economy, Confederation, the cost of living, education and the opportunities open to young people—it is this government and this Premier who have taken the lead. It is important to recognize that as a province citizens are better served here, have more chances here, and have greater means of expression here than is the case in many other parts of this country.

We are well aware of the great challenges which lie before us—economic threats, unemployment, housing issues, financial insecurities. These, my friends, are our real enemies and these are the issues, and our war against them must be intense, as unrelenting and as inspired as can be waged by a government not trapped with rigid,

out-of-place ideology or by a caucus gone wild with bedlam disorganization.

Mr. Breithaupt: The one you were in.

Mr. Shore: Our proposals are decisive, realistic and forward-looking.

I believe this Throne Speech represents a continuing pledge that this government, so overwhelmingly endorsed by popular opinion, will continue a programme of action and development. Its content—which includes such proposals as extended French-language education, a commission of freedom of information, the extension of rent controls, an effort to create jobs for the young people, to improve housing, and to better plan the management of our resources—is individual, positive programmes designed to meet specific needs, and yet at the same time to be woven together to become the cloth from which the continued prosperity of this province will be cut.

If I might speak on one problem which has long concerned me and to which the Progressive Conservative caucus is making a strong commitment, it is in the area of small and independent business.

Mr. Nixon: Free lunch at caucus.

Mr. Shore: If small business—which includes most of our firms and is the well-spring for so much of our competitive initiative and new ideas—can't make it, then our whole system will suffer and each of us will pay a price. It is evident that a highly competitive economy is still the best consumer protection as it is the best guarantee of our individual right to choose. In keeping with the spirit, the Premier has taken the lead and established a caucus committee that would be a link between the government and the interests of small-business men and women.

I have been given the responsibility and the honour to serve with men who have real experience and genuine concern, the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea), the member for York North (Mr. Hodgson), the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. Johnson), and the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman). We have set out to travel to various parts of this province, meeting business people, listening to problems and complaints, coming to grips with several alternatives and seeking to arrive at well-considered policy proposals. This is an opportunity which we cannot allow to fall from our grasp.

We are therefore pleased to see the additional initiatives for small business in the Speech from the Throne—the advisory com-

mittee, the lending assistance, and so on. It reflects a real and practical sensitivity which is what government is all about here in Ontario.

Mr. Deans: Do you mean you are taking credit for all that?

Mr. Eakins: You put in an application.

Mr. Shore: Another issue with which I am heavily involved is that of educational reform and a return to a more basic approach to learning. As a parent with three children in the school system, as a former chairman of the board of education in London, and as an elected provincial member, my record is clear and unwavering. My fight for new guidelines in spending, a return to core curriculum, essential basics in the teaching of English, three Rs in the elementary school, a renewed emphasis on standards, and a decentralized more-human system was begun literally years ago.

Mr. Kerrio: That's our policy.

Mr. Eakins: You said that last year.

Mr. Shore: In this regard, I can only applaud the curriculum reforms recently announced by the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells).

Mr. Breithaupt: You can swallow anything if you can swallow that.

Mr. Shore: As he has said, we cannot leave it to chance that young people get the fundamentals. We have to ensure it.

Mr. Eakins: Is that what the Premier has done?

Mr. Shore: While much has been done, while in some instances it might have been slow coming, there have been great accomplishments. Much still remains to be done. There is absolutely no reason why our children cannot get the greatest education that money and caring and reasoned government can supply.

The Speech from the Throne is a human and responsive document. It seeks to lead and to serve and to lay before this House the programme that does both. Ontario's real economic and social needs will be advanced through carefully balanced and fair government, government which all responsible members of the opposition will, I am sure, wish to support and sustain.

Instability in Ontario now and unnecessary manoeuvres in this House by those that would distort the will of the people will only dis-

credit the institution of the Legislature and foster a lack of confidence at a time when confidence in ourselves as Canadians and Ontarians, confidence in our institutions and capacity, is more necessary than ever before. Canadians in our province are not looking for expressions of no-confidence in our future and in ourselves. We are looking for the confidence that builds nations, fosters understanding and provides growth and prosperity. That is what this Speech from the Throne offers us all.

In summary, while I am not party to the politics of pie-in-the-sky optimism in that I realize the tough challenges that lie ahead in the economy, in Confederation, in promoting the best welfare for our citizens, I can remain confident because of the often-demonstrated concerns and decency of this government and its leaders.

If the hopes expressed in the Throne Speech are to be fulfilled—

Mr. Deans: It will be a miracle.

Mr. Shore: —all of the members of this Legislature must co-operate, despite their partisan differences, for the sake of the higher ideal of real service to the people of Ontario in these difficult times. That is why with great pride I second the motion to adopt Her Honour's Speech from the Throne. Let it be said that in the face of adversity the bywords of this Parliament were to remain strength, compassion, justice.

On motion by Mr. Deans, the debate was adjourned.

[12:00]

MOTIONS

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I move that on Thursday, April 7, the House meet from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.—

Mr. Deans: Why is that, by the way?

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and when the House adjourns on that day it will stand adjourned until Tuesday, April 12.

Mr. Deans: Don't you really think it is more important to do the business of the House—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: moved that on Thursday, April 7, the House meet from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m., and when the House adjourns on that

day it will stand adjourned until Tuesday, April 12.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that the membership of the standing committees established on March 31 be as follows:

Social development committee—15 members as follows: Belanger, Conway, Dukszta, Ferris, Grande, Jones, Kennedy, Kerrio, Leluk, McClellan, Sandeman, Shore, Sweeney, Villeneuve, Wiseman.

Resources development committee—15 members as follows: Bain, Eakins, Eaton, Ferrier, Gaunt, Hodgson, Johnson (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel), Lane, Laughren, Martel, McNeil, Reed (Halton-Burlington), Riddell, Rollins, Yakabuski.

Administration of justice committee—15 members as follows: Drea, Edighoffer, Gigantes, Grossman, Johnston, (St. Catharines), Kennedy, Lawlor, Leluk, Lupusella, Maeck, Philip, Renwick, Roy, Singer, Stong.

General government committee—15 members as follows: Cassidy, di Santo, Evans,

Good, Gregory, Irvine, McEwen, McCague, Morrow, Reid (Rainy River), Rollins, Ruston, Smith (Nipissing), Warner and Wildman.

Public accounts committee—11 members as follows: Angus, Drea, Germa, Grossman, Hall, Mackenzie, Makarchuk, Peterson, Sargent, Shore, Williams.

Statutory instruments committee—eight members as follows: Belanger, Davison (Hamilton Centre), Johnson (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel), Jones, Mancini, McKessock, Samis, Williams.

Procedural affairs committee—eight members as follows: Drea, Campbell, Cunningham, Eaton, Foulds, Haggerty, Irvine and Morrow.

Members' services committee—eight members as follows: Davidson (Cambridge), Evans, Givens, Lane, McNeil, Miller (Haldimand-Norfolk), Moffatt, Swart.

Motion agreed to.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Welch, the House adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

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Monday, April 4, 1977

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 1977

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

QUEBEC LANGUAGE LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, on Friday the government of Quebec tabled in the legislature of that province a language charter which, as a prelude to promised language legislation in that province, is a document of both import, significance and controversy. Many questions with respect to the direction and tenor of that document have been raised from various sources, including many outside the province of Quebec.

I want to inform the House that I have directed the law officers of the Crown to prepare a detailed opinion for the cabinet as to the legality of some of the proposed areas of language legislation in the context of the constitution and its various restrictions and guarantees.

We do take the view, and I cannot express it strongly enough to members of the Legislature, that all governments must operate within the confines of the constitution. While it is legitimate to seek change in that document, it would not be legitimate to operate outside the constitution for any reason or purpose.

It would be our expectation that any legislation emanating from any province which was ultra vires, would be challenged. In view of the great sensitivity of this legislation, when and if it is brought down, it would be our expectation that the federal government would be prepared to initiate such a challenge, should they have an opinion which deems its provisions to be unconstitutional.

I would like, therefore, to register our province's concern with respect to the constitutionality of this proposed legislation, without commenting generally at this time on the tenor and direction of the charter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to provide one basic assurance, to this House and to the people of Ontario, with respect to a very deeply held commitment in this province. Whatever legislation or restrictions may

be imposed in another province or jurisdiction with respect to minority rights, this province's commitment to our Franco-Ontarian citizens, to their educational, language and social rights will not be diminished.

As I have tried to explain before, that commitment is not tied to the welfare of any minority group elsewhere; it is tied to our commitment here in Ontario to an open, diverse and pluralistic society, strengthened by the vitality of our two founding peoples, and enriched by the presence of a multi-cultural milieu. We will continue to seek ways of improving and expanding, where fair and practical and where numbers justify it, French-language government services throughout Ontario. Our commitment to French-language public education and increased second-language French education stands.

I might add, by the way, that French-speaking residents of Quebec who choose to move to Ontario have full and unrestricted access to our French-language public school system—without limit. I take great exception to any proposed denial of similar rights to Ontarians moving to our sister province of Quebec.

The French-language culture and French Canadian reality are an indelible part of Ontario's heritage and make-up—a reality we are all richer and better for embracing and advancing within the context of our society as a whole.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, I would like to explain some of the background and provide further details concerning the initiatives affecting children's services which were announced Tuesday in the Speech from the Throne.

It has often been said before, but it bears repeating, that children most need to be able to grow up in a normal fashion, nurtured by family and community. Where problems arise, help needs to be available in ways that will reinforce the family unit and rely on community resources.

For many years this government has been committed to helping children and their families and communities. As a result, programmes have arisen and evolved in a variety of ways.

Our efforts to increase the range and variety of services have, inevitably, produced inconsistencies—as between insured health services for children, social services for children and so forth. Motivated by a primacy of concern for children, many efforts have been made to cope with the interrelated services. Spontaneous voluntary efforts at co-ordination have developed in a number of communities.

At the provincial level, the cabinet committee on social development commissioned the study of residential services, and created as well the interministerial council for troubled children and youth in order to identify possible avenues of reform, and produce improved co-ordinating structures.

The government has now concluded that it is appropriate and necessary to make two fundamental changes. At the provincial level, a new division of the Ministry of Community and Social Services will be established to provide for the total spectrum of services for children with special needs, excepting only special education services which will continue to be the responsibility of the Ministry of Education.

At the community level, children's services committees will be established under regional and local governments.

The new division in the Ministry of Community and Social Services will have responsibility for: (a) overall policy development; (b) the development of unified standards and licensing; (c) financing; (d) those services which will continue to be provided directly, and (e) procedures for monitoring and evaluation.

At the community level, the children's services committees will be responsible and have authority and resources for:

(a) Determining the special needs of children and taking the responsibility for ensuring appropriate assessment and placement services;

(b) Ensuring that appropriate services are provided. The committee would not be expected to deliver services directly, but rather would acquire them from suitable agencies. Where services are not available locally, services could be acquired elsewhere;

(c) Monitoring and evaluation;

(d) Ensuring or exercising wardship responsibilities for children placed in care under

The Child Welfare Act, The Training Schools Act, The Juvenile Delinquents Act, or their successors. The Family Court would adjudicate under these Acts; the local committee would take the responsibility for ensuring the proper care and custody of the child;

(e) The planning necessary to meet community needs.

It is essential to focus on the individual child and his family rather than on the various systems and institutions. We feel communities are best able to do this. The government wants to ensure that a child is supported in his or her own home whenever possible, and that residential services and placement outside the home should occur only if essential, and that this should be provided in the child's own community except in the most unusual circumstances.

We look to work with communities to ensure that whatever group homes are required are provided within the home community of the children served. We look to see arrangements made with the family courts that will further safeguard the rights of children. We hope that the federal proposals for new legislations affecting young offenders will harmonize with our own reforms.

It will take time to effect these changes.

Mrs. Campbell: Thirty-four years.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: My colleague, the Minister of Community and Social Services, will provide details in a moment on how the policy will evolve and how we are committed to consult with those who are now engaged in one way or another in the provision of services for children.

I have said in this Legislature before, and I must repeat, that probably we will never have all the answers. There are no magic cures, and despite the public's expectations we will not achieve success with all of our children, but we are committed and we will try.

This government is determined to put an end to the isolation of children who need care, to put an end to the multiple assessments that many children are subjected to, and to put an end to the sometimes senseless movement of children from one service to another. The integration of children's services underlines our determination to provide a compassionate, caring and effective flow of services to the many children who need our help.

Copies of the statements have been placed in the mail boxes of all members and I'm now tabling a compendium of background information.

Mr. Cassidy: Is that why it took you three and a half years to prepare it?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, it is the commitment of this government to unify the separate programmes into an integrated system that is better designed to meet the special needs of children and youth across this province. The first step of implementation of this policy at the provincial level will be the introduction of legislation this session to effect the transfer of the following programmes to this new division:

From the Ministry of Health: children's mental health services branch of the ministry, facilities and programmes operated under The Children's Mental Health Centres Act; regional children's centres; special units for children in psychiatric hospitals, and the family court clinics.

From the Ministry of Correctional Services: the juvenile division of this ministry; its training schools; group homes; foster homes; special rates homes; probation and after-care services.

[2:15]

From the Ministry of the Attorney General: observation and detention centres and contract homes.

From within the Ministry of Community and Social Services: the child welfare branch of the ministry and facilities and programmes operated under The Child Welfare Act, including Children's Aid Societies, The Children's Institutions Act, The Children's Boarding Homes Act, and The Charitable Institutions Act (for Children); the child abuse programme of the ministry; mental retardation services for children; the day nurseries branch of the ministry, and facilities and programmes operated under The Day Nurseries Act.

The new reporting relationships will take effect on July 1, 1977, but over the next few months there will be considerable discussion on the specific implementation of this policy. In some programmes, such as psychiatric, mental retardation and day care, it is anticipated that administrative changes will take a little longer period of time to implement in order that the transfer may be accomplished as smoothly as possible. Other programmes, not yet identified, may also be included in the new children's services area.

In addition to the organizational transfer, it is my intention to move towards omnibus children's legislation that will rationalize and reform such matters as licensing requirements, operating standards and funding.

To implement these changes at the provincial level, I take great pleasure announcing the appointment, effective immediately, of Judge George Thomson, judge of the provincial court (family division) in Kingston, to the position of associate deputy minister, reporting directly to me.

Mr. Deans: How about someone from Wentworth?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Throughout Ontario, and in fact Canada, Judge Thomson has initiated training programmes for the bench to help judges in the area of juveniles. Through leadership in numerous local provincial and Canada-wide committees and boards and through extensive written publications, Judge Thomson has established a very high reputation in the area of family law, and in particular with respect to juveniles and children. He has the direct personal experience, empathy and commitment necessary to spearhead the implementation of the overall goals of an integrated children's services system.

To assist Judge Thomson, I'm pleased to announce that Mr. Peter Barnes, director of organization, policy branch of Management Board, is named as executive director of the new division. Mr. Barnes has several years' experience both within the Ontario government and as a consultant to many levels of government, both in Canada and in Europe, specializing in organizational matters. The integration of the children's programme both at the provincial and the local level will require the special skills and the sensitivity that Mr. Barnes brings to bear on this new office.

Similarly, at the local level, we will be moving quickly to implement the policy in which local governments will be responsible for ensuring the provision of services to their own children. In consultation with regional governments, we will start the implementation at this level with the establishment of local regional governments, appropriate methods of cost-sharing for these children's services. In so doing, we will also take into account the implications of the proposed federal Young Offenders Act and Social Services Act.

For those municipalities not under regional government, the province will be initiating pilot projects to begin to phase in, in a unified approach, children's services. The pilot projects would demonstrate various ways to provide for a consolidated approach best suited to that particular community.

In order to provide ample opportunity for consultation with local governments and

agencies, and yet move as swiftly as possible toward the consolidation of these services, I will be announcing, not later than July 1, a full timetable for the implementation at the community level.

The implementation of the consolidation of children's services will take the co-operation of literally thousands of government staff and many more thousands of staff from agencies, residences and services throughout this province. If we are to reach our goal of an integrated delivery system that truly meets the needs of each child, there will need to be a high priority placed upon consultation. To this end I have already written to the heads of provincial staff, agencies and residences that have been identified to date, to outline the proposed changes and to solicit their assistance.

Over the next few months, I will be holding meetings with these senior staff and with key agencies to inform them of the progress and to seek their comments, concerns and support. I'm confident that these people, as well as the members of this Legislature, share my concern in providing the very best possible special services for children and youth. Over the coming months and years I trust that we will move together towards this goal.

OPP SALARY INCREASE

Hon. Mr. Auld: I am pleased to report that a settlement has been reached in contract negotiations between the government and the Ontario Provincial Police Association.

The new agreement runs from April 1, 1977, to March 31, 1978, and will provide a salary increase of 7.4 per cent for the 3,900 members of the bargaining unit, except for probationary constables, who will receive 6.6 per cent. In addition, there will be improvements in shift premium and vacation entitlement, and the government will pay 100 per cent of the OHIP premium and 85 per cent of the premium for the long-term income protection plan. The previous figures were 90 per cent and 75 per cent respectively. The plain clothes allowance will be increased by \$50 per year.

In a similar announcement following last year's negotiations, I recall making reference to the fact that the parties to these negotiations had established the enviable record of not having required the assistance of a third party to resolve salary differences in all the years that they have been negotiating—I

think it's some 10 years. I am pleased that the record has been extended another year.

There are those who claim that real bargaining does not take place in a system that has binding arbitration as the final dispute-settling mechanism. The successful completion of all contracts with this association in direct negotiations is clear evidence that our system can and does work where the people at the bargaining table have the will to make it work.

HOUSING PROGRAMME

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, last Thursday the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) produced a document I had not seen and asked for comment on the disposition of HOME lands now that the HOME programme has evolved into a grant programme. I would like to respond in the form of a statement so as not to take up the time of the question period.

I find the document he was quoting from was material provided to Ontario lenders when the ministry was exploring whether or not it would be prepared to lend under the proposed programme. The figures were preliminary but close to what we have in mind for the disposition of land as it is developed.

As we have been saying since the announcement of the new programme, we will continue to develop our holdings at a rate of between 3,500 to 4,000 housing units a year. These would be marketed to builders at the lower end of the market appraisals with the bulk being used for housing under the new AHOP/HOME plan and the others for a range of housing. That's exactly what the document says.

When the programme was announced on March 7, I said: "Ottawa has agreed with us that the land we and they have purchased should be sold at market values—actually at the low end of market, as we will use the lowest of three appraisals—primarily but not exclusively to builders who will make use of the AHOP/HOME ownership assistance programme.

"This will have two benefits. Our funds generated from the sale will be used for housing-related programmes. This provides additional financing for housing at a time of constraint both in Ottawa and Queen's Park. Second, it will provide for the development of more balanced communities in the larger government developments. The same range of housing types can be developed there as developed in neighbouring private subdivisions."

My press release at that date stated we would be developing land "in a way that would create more balanced communities" and that this has been discussed with and agreed to by the federal Minister of State for Urban Affairs, the Hon. Andre Ouellet, as CMHC is the major shareholder in many of the land banks.

The material quoted by the Leader of the Opposition from the memorandum to the lenders is in agreement with the policy as I announced it. The memo contains some preliminary estimates that some of the land units likely to come on to the market in the current fiscal year would be of higher-priced land which would result in housing over the AHOP limits. It will depend upon appraisals as to whether or not the land will fit with the new programme. However, I would point out the programme is universal—not restricted to housing on government land—so it is available across Ontario and not just in HOME subdivisions.

The Leader of the Opposition stated that selling land at close to market will provide a profit to the two levels of government. This, of course, is true. That's what we said when we announced the programme and said the money would be ploughed back into other housing programmes.

He suggested the first buyers should benefit from any increase in land value and not the taxpayers whose agency develops the land. I would point out his party for years argued that under the original HOME plan, individuals should not be allowed to reap the benefits of enhanced value, that it should go to the state.

On June 22, 1973—as quoted on page 3814 of Hansard—the former minister responsible for housing announced a change in the HOME plan where "any increment in the land value, therefore, will accrue to the public instead of a private individual" as land will be sold at market value and not at the price set when the lease began. This was warmly greeted by the then NDP housing critic, the member for Ottawa Centre who stated: "It looks like the minister has been reading NDP policy."

As for keeping the municipalities informed, I would tell the hon. member we mailed details on the new programme to all municipalities. Also, we have already held two of about a dozen workshops which will be used to discuss details with municipal officials. Some municipalities will want representatives of the ministry to appear and discuss the matter. This has already occurred and we will be pleased to do so.

Under the new approach, we will follow the accepted procedures in dealing with the municipalities. We will still apply to them for subdivision approvals as we have done in the past. Municipalities will have as much say as before, as we will be acting as any normal developer.

Mr. S. Smith: And land speculator.

VOTING QUALIFICATIONS

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, just by way of a perhaps somewhat longer answer to a question which was asked on Friday with respect to the Pan-Am Games in Hamilton, my understanding is that the council of the city now wishes to invite the games to Hamilton. So far as I know, the city of Hamilton is not at present considering what is known as a vote on a money bylaw. The city has under present legislation the ability to approach the Ontario Municipal Board for permission to have a vote between elections of the electors, tenants included, to gain opinion if it wishes.

This broad approach that the hon. member for Hamilton West seems to favour is there now if the city council wishes to pursue it. On the issue of eligibility to vote on money bylaws, if and when it comes to that—and they are very rare occurrences in Ontario these days, since we rely basically on representative councils and the Ontario Municipal Board to make these decisions—I would be glad to review the base from which these votes are taken as we review, as we are doing now, The Municipal Elections Act.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

Mr. Deans: In rising, Mr. Speaker, just before I ask a question, I wanted to say to you, sir, that I am sure I speak for more than just my own colleagues when I say to the Premier that we welcome his concerns expressed on behalf of the government of Ontario with regard to the recent position taken by Quebec. I would just like to assume that we will be kept informed as to what answers come from his constitutional questions and that he will make some representations to the Prime Minister of Canada.

CANCER AND ASBESTOS

Mr. Deans: The question that I have is to the Minister of Labour: Can the Minister of Labour produce any epidemiological study, other than that provided by Dr. Selikoff, to justify the action taken by the Workmen's

Compensation Board last week with regard to Aime Bertrand?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I have seen the report of an epidemiological analysis of the information provided by Dr. Selikoff to the Workmen's Compensation Board. I do not have a copy in my possession at the moment, but I shall be glad to get a copy and to present it to the hon. member.

Mr. Deans: Can the minister indicate what it is about this relationship among the Ministry of Labour, the Workmen's Compensation Board and Dr. Selikoff that has the board accept at face value evidence presented only some months ago by Dr. Selikoff with regard to cancer of similar types in other organs, because it happened to suit the board to do it, and now turn around at this time, on similar evidence, properly put together, and turn it down with just simply a reference to Dr. Miller at the University of Toronto?

[2:30]

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the acceptance by the Workmen's Compensation Board of the classification of cancer of the gastro-intestinal tract in asbestos workers was made not upon examination of Dr. Selikoff's information at face value at all. It was made upon the examination of all of the published information regarding asbestos and gastro-intestinal cancers which was carried out by Dr. Ritchie and then reviewed in an accurate and very long epidemiological study by Dr. Miller. Indeed, the response in that instance, I think, was entirely responsible.

The paper, which has been provided by Dr. Selikoff, is one piece of paper with some figures on it listing the results which he found in his study of asbestos workers—with no real conclusions drawn. Therefore, that paper was submitted to the epidemiological study which has been carried out on the previous information, and the epidemiologist reported his finding would be that Dr. Selikoff's results were, indeed, equivocal rather than being specifically on one side or the other.

At this time there are two other studies of this matter being carried out, and when those are produced and published—and I do wish that Dr. Selikoff would publish his material so that it could be subjected to the critical analysis of his peer group—we shall again be reviewing this specific matter.

Mr. Laughren: Supplementary: In view of the fact that the Workmen's Compensation Board indicated previously that they were awaiting Dr. Selikoff's report before making a final decision on laryngeal cancer, how is

it that the Minister of Labour allows Dr. McCracken then to seek out evidence to the contrary rather than extending to the workers of this province the benefit of the doubt? And, further, doesn't the minister think Dr. McCracken has outlived his usefulness on the Workmen's Compensation Board of this province?

Mr. Warner: He should resign.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I would first say that I think Dr. McCracken is serving both the workers of Ontario and the Workmen's Compensation Board extremely well. He is functioning as a very concerned, responsible physician in this aspect.

Mr. Warner: That board runs by itself.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The report presented by Dr. Selikoff was only one of the pieces of information we had asked for. If, indeed, the epidemiological study of Dr. Selikoff's figures—and I must admit when one looks at Dr. Selikoff's single sheet of paper the first impression is that there is a direct causal relationship which, unfortunately, does not stand up under the epidemiological scrutiny it has been subjected to. There are other experts in this area—

Mr. Warner: By whom? Let's see the answer.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Dr. Selikoff is not the only one.

Mr. Warner: You're playing games.

Hon. B. Stephenson: He is an important researcher whose information we value, but it must be subjected to the kind of analysis which any other researcher's studies would be subjected to. On that basis, at this time, there is no reason for accepting the causal relationship between asbestos and laryngeal cancer.

Mr. Laughren: Supplementary: If decisions such as this one are being made because of pressures applied to the Compensation Board by the employers of this province, will the minister direct the employers in Ontario that if they find the assessment of compensation against them to be too heavy, they clean up the work place and not extract the pound of flesh from the workers?

Mr. Warner: Why don't you get some control over that board?

Hon. B. Stephenson: That is a spurious accusation. The decisions made by the Work-

men's Compensation Board are not subjected to any pressure from any employers. They are made independently—

Mr. Warner: It runs by itself.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —by the specialists and the consultants which the Workmen's Compensation Board asks for advice, and that advice is entirely independent of everyone.

Mr. Warner: Including you?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, including me.

Mr. Mackenzie: I would like to ask the minister at what point, apart from the studies and surveys, Aime Bertrand gets the benefit of the doubt in his tragic case?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I have promised Mr. Bertrand that I will review the decision which was made in his case, and I intend to do that.

Mr. Deans: Just for clarification—it's not a supplementary. Did I understand you correctly—in answer to my question—that you will produce the additional epidemiological studies that were done to justify the decision?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I said that I had seen a copy of the submission which was made by Dr. Miller to Dr. McCracken. I will try to get a copy of that letter for the hon. member.

Mr. Deans: Maybe this is a good time for a freedom-of-information bill.

CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS

Mr. Deans: I have a question for the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer produce for the House all the capital-works-projects proposals of all the ministries, and all those produced for the Ontario Municipal Board by municipalities for the years 1974 through 1977, and the state of completion or readiness that they are now at, in order that we can determine which, if any, can be proceeded with now to create employment in the province of Ontario?

Mr. Breithaupt: He can answer that off the top of his head.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Well, no, not off the top of my head, as I heard somebody say.

Mr. Nixon: Starting to get thinner.

Mr. Cassidy: Shame.

Mr. Laughren: Some Management Board.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I would think you would have to ask the various ministries as to what capital projects they might or might not have on the shelf, so to speak, and what position they would be in to accelerate or otherwise if funds became available. I would have no such list, nor do I think would the Chairman of Management Board. We could go through various submissions, I suppose, which are made to Management Board, but often we find that even six or eight months or a year later they are out of date and priorities have changed, and they might not necessarily be on the list.

With respect to those expenditure items, capital works programmes which would be put in front of the Ontario Municipal Board, I think that information in gross amount is contained in the Municipal Board annual report, which is tabled in this Legislature by the Attorney General. I believe that figure would be there. There again, I'm not sure that the Ontario Municipal Board keeps any ongoing record of what has been not approved for one reason or another.

I would also say that, not to my certain knowledge but certainly by comments made by the Municipal Board and others, I think it is fair to say that very little that has been put forward to the board in the last couple of years has not been approved. When the urge to restrain went forward from me to the board in the supplementary actions and in the last budget, the municipalities responded very well and did not, in fact, make application to the board for greater amounts than either the board thought to be prudently handled, or which were not in the nature of something which really needed to be done as opposed to wanted to be done.

So I think the variance between what was proposed to the board and what the board approved is probably very small, and that information, I think, would have to come from the municipalities.

Mr. Deans: A supplementary question: What then did the Treasurer's statement on page 9 of the Throne Speech mean when he said "special funding to create jobs in both the private and public sectors will be a feature of the new Ontario budget," if he doesn't know what his own government was proposing to do during the years 1974 through 1982 in terms of capital projects and the possibility of the use of those to create employment for people not working?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I think we are talking about apples and oranges as opposed—

Mr. Breaugh: No, bread and butter.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —to the very large aspirations of the ministries at any given point in time.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary to the first question asked by the member for Wentworth, regarding what's in front of the OMB, has the Treasurer spoken with the Attorney General to see if something can be done to speed up the pace about the hearing regarding Toronto's downtown plan, given the rate of construction unemployment in this particular city? Has he also asked whether or not it's possible to have the senior citizens' projects separated out from the present OMB hearings so that they can proceed more rapidly and create the construction jobs accordingly?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I discussed this matter with the Attorney General as recently as an hour and a half ago, and the member might like to direct the question to him.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Supplementary, the member for Ottawa Centre.

Mrs. Campbell: Answer the question.

Mr. Cassidy: To the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer say—

Mr. S. Smith: It is hard to redirect a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe the hon. Treasurer provided the opportunity to transfer the question—to the Attorney General, was it? Is there an answer, Mr. Attorney General?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I met with the chairman of the Ontario Municipal Board last week to discuss this problem, and we discussed it in some detail, he having reviewed it with his own people before. He indicated that in his view there was no practical way that any of these matters could be separated out.

An hon. member: Why not?

Mr. Speaker: All right, the member for Ottawa Centre.

Mr. Cassidy: Since the Treasurer has said that he has not canvassed the government departments to find out what jobs could be created this year by the acceleration of provincial projects, can he say how many jobs

have been lost over the last few months by the reduction of \$77 million in lending by the Ontario Mortgage Corporation and the Development Corporation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think that opens up a new area.

An hon. member: No, it's the same thing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is a supplementary. Final supplementary, the member for York North.

Mr. MacDonald: In view of the universal concern about unemployment, would the provincial Treasurer canvass the ministries within his own government and in his budget indicate what share for public works, capital works projects, there is? Surely it is easier for him to do that than for us to ask each ministry—and it's a very relevant piece of information for his budget.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, one can ask ministries what they would like to do if money was no problem, yes. Certainly that is done from time to time, and we would have—

Mr. Foulds: Just before an election usually.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —a rather large list—a very large list—of public works projects.

Mr. MacDonald: Would the Treasurer exercise his judgement?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: That's exactly what we do. In the course of preparing a budget that's exactly what Management Board does. We exercise our judgement.

Mr. Foulds: Usually bad.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We have been spending for the last four or five years, I would guess, in the neighbourhood of a billion and a half to two billion dollars on capital projects of one kind or another, which is very large indeed. No jobs have been lost because of the reduction in spending by either the Ontario Mortgage Corporation or the Ontario Development Corporation.

The Ontario Mortgage Corporation rates are such that they are now no longer, I think this is fair to say, an inducement. Private-sector mortgage money is available and those are the reasons why that money was not taken up, rather than a curbing on the spending of it by the Minister of Housing.

With respect to the Ontario Development Corporation, the demand for loans simply has not been there.

TORONTO DOWNTOWN PLAN

Mr. S. Smith: A question for the Attorney General, Mr. Speaker: Knowing that the Attorney General shares with me the view that the present construction unemployment in Toronto and in Ontario generally is really an emergency, could the Attorney General explain why he will accept the view of the OMB chairman that (a) the senior citizens' projects could not be separated out and (b) that the hearings have to go on at the present somewhat leisurely pace? Surely in an emergency the Attorney General could instruct the OMB to meet overtime on a regular basis to get this matter on the road and get these people at work as soon as possible.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Firstly, Mr. Speaker, the counsel for the city of Toronto has considerable discretion in the manner in which he chooses to present his case; and the members of the Municipal Board—the three members who are hearing this matter—don't feel that they have any right to indicate to counsel the manner in which the case is produced or how quickly the city's case is completed.

Just following this matter in the press, I think the leader of the Liberal Party will have noted, as I have, some concern, expressed publicly by various members of the board hearing it from time to time, as to speeding up the process. I think the members who are hearing the matter are urging counsel to proceed as expeditiously as possible but there are obvious limitations in that respect.

With respect to the technical problems involved in relation to separating out any specific projects—namely the senior citizens' projects—I have a number of details and information in my office in relation to this, and rather than just trust on my recollection today I'd prefer to attempt to respond in greater detail tomorrow with respect to the technical problems that confront any effort to separate projects and expedite them or the bylaws that would affect them.

[2:45]

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary; I appreciate the answer but could the Attorney General tell the House whether he has personally communicated to the mayor of Toronto his concern, and his government's concern, that counsel for the city proceed

more expeditiously and more rapidly. And can he assure that if counsel will proceed more expeditiously that the OMB officers would be willing to work overtime to get some of these projects underway while the need is still great?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I haven't communicated directly with respect to the mayor of the city of Toronto. As a practising lawyer for some years, I always regarded it as inappropriate to communicate with a client with advice as to how their counsel should conduct a matter before the courts or tribunal. I don't think this would be proper for me, with all due respect.

With respect to the longer sittings, I think the board members have been prepared to sit regularly and for reasonable hours. There is a very large volume of highly technical evidence that is being introduced—some say overly technical, or this view has been expressed by individual members of the board—and to expect them to sit any longer hours than what they are sitting, I don't think it is in the public interest, because I think individuals in any type of hearing such as this are capable of only absorbing facts for so many hours a day. I think the leader of the Liberal Party with his own professional training would appreciate that problem.

Mr. Speaker: The member for London Centre.

Mr. Peterson: As a Metro member particularly and one who is sensitive about these kind of problems—and I think it is the kind of thing that requires assistance from everyone, particularly from the minister as a Metro member—would he be prepared personally to attempt to come to some kind of accommodation with Metro and with the OMB to accelerate this? Would he get involved from now on?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: With respect, Mr. Speaker, I don't really understand the question. I don't know in what manner the hon. member is suggesting the Attorney General become involved. I think in matters such as this there are a number of interested parties with conflicting views. I think it would be most inappropriate for the Attorney General to intervene in the manner suggested.

OHC RENT ARREARS

Mr. S. Smith: A question, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Housing: In view of the

rather severe hardships, including some evictions in Toronto and in Ottawa, caused by the attempts of OHC and local housing authorities to collect so-called arrears which resulted from the retroactive exclusion of public housing from rent review, would the minister not agree to forgive the additional amounts charged for that period, December 1975 to the third week in May 1976? Would he at least agree to meet with representatives of the various tenants' groups to discuss this particular unfortunate situation? There have now been evictions, as he knows, in Toronto and in Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member, I am sure, is aware that a great many of the persons who were residing in the particular units he is referring to have in fact paid the rents they would have been required to pay under the normal rent-geared-to-income scale. It would be improper, I believe, to now forgive those who did not. Despite some of the comments that have been made, Ontario Housing Corporation officials have attempted in many ways to accommodate the payment of those funds. There has been no pressure brought to bear.

Mr. Good: Doesn't the minister call eviction pressure?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: As I understand it the evictions have only come about as a result of people who have flatly refused to pay the rents they were required to pay under a rent-geared-to-income scale.

Mr. Speaker: Further questions?

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary; is the minister aware of the case in Ottawa February 14 where a young couple with two small children were made homeless under rent review? The husband 23, an illiterate; the wife 19, naive. They paid their rent; they were then asked for arrears of \$500, the amount by which their rent went up. They were asked to sign a paper agreeing to pay the arrears and they thought they had no alternative but to sign so they signed. Then they were evicted because they failed to pay these arrears. Has the minister looked into that particular case? Doesn't he think this type of hardship was unforeseen by the House?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I must say I am not familiar with that particular case. I would be pleased to hear the details, although some of them are a little bit strange as portrayed by the hon. member.

Mr. S. Smith: It's not particularly funny.

Mr. Good: Supplementary: Did the minister authorize this or was he aware of the fact that during the term that rent review procedures were legal for people in OHC housing that OHC was sending letters to those people asking for the additional rents that would apply if they were not under rent review? Was he aware that that happened, or can he confirm that that did happen? Would he not consider that an illegal action at that time?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, yes, I am aware of that. I do not consider it an illegal action. What was done was that a letter was sent advising those tenants that there was a possibility that their units might not be subject to rent control.

Mr. Good: But they were at that time.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is correct. They were then. The letters were sent to them saying that they had the choice. They could pay the rent as it was controlled by the rent review process or they could pay the full rents and the differences would be held for them. You see, Mr. Speaker, some of us were of the opinion—and I believe some of the tenants became aware—that there might be a turnaround of the Liberal Party position in that particular matter.

An hon. member: You've had it.

Mr. Breaugh: Supplementary: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the minister would consider treating that in the same way as the government has treated the first-time home owner's grant and pursuing it with the same diligence?

Mr. Good: Talk about breaking faith.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Oshawa is asking a question.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I apologize to the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, I was listening to interjections from the hon. member from Waterloo at the time.

Mr. Breithaupt: They were of some value too.

Mr. Breaugh: I'll repeat the question. I certainly don't want to interfere with any interjection over there.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We can't hear the member for Oshawa, the only one who has the floor. Thank you.

Mr. Breaugh: Thank you. I'm impressed. Mr. Speaker, would the minister consider putting this in the same box as the first-time home owner's programme and treating it with the same diligence?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member wishes us to proceed and to collect the arrears, as this House has generally directed should be done under the first-time home buyers grant, yes.

An hon. member: The same way.

DRIVERS' MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Mr. Philip: A question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications concerning the new licensing system for transport drivers: Is the minister aware that at a meeting last Thursday between officials of his department and the Ontario Joint Council of Teamsters the officials indicated that the only real guarantee of confidentiality of medical records was their word of honour, with the possible exception of certain sections under The Transport Act that would give them some protection? If so, would the minister indicate what sections of the Act offer protection of confidentiality of their medical records and what amendments the minister might be considering to strengthen these sections to guarantee that these records will not be made available to other people who might like to use them?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I was aware that my senior officials were at that particular meeting last week. I have not had a report from them on the outcome, so I will have to look into the matter and get the information the hon. member wants.

Mr. Philip: By way of supplementary then, would the minister at least answer the second part of my question; namely what protection do they have, under what sections of the Act, of confidentiality? And why would the minister not accept a simple statement by the medical profession that drivers are fit to live up to the kinds of requirement that the ministry is setting for drivers?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of what sections of the Act were referred to at that particular meeting, because as I told the hon. member I have not received a report on that meeting yet; I will get the information.

Mr. Moffatt: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has promised to come back with an

answer. Have we got something that is supplementary to that?

Mr. Moffatt: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Since the minister is going to provide further information, maybe he can provide this as well. Why is it that the provisions under the regulations governing this new driver's licence system provide that no person who takes insulin in any form can drive any kind of commercial vehicle?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I would have to get advice on that from my medical advisory committee. I don't pretend to be able to answer that question.

Mr. Speaker: I indicated that was the final supplementary. We can come back to it at a later time.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Mrs. Campbell: My question is to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development. May I first commend her on the fact that she has now been motivated as a result of the activities of this party in the group home field.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: You can't say that with a straight face.

Mrs. Campbell: On page 3 of her statement she refers to the activities of the family court, the local committee taking responsibility for ensuring the proper care and custody of the child. Does this mean we are going to see a continuation of full responsibility in these cases being placed upon the municipalities, in place of the province, where they used to lie under section 8?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I would just like to reiterate this government didn't take action because of the pressure of the Liberal Party.

Mrs. Campbell: After 34 years?

Mr. Reid: Like the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Breithaupt: It just happened.

Mr. Ruston: The same as the Minister of Education and his education policy.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I would like to say publicly that the indication that the hon. member has tried to say the Liberal Party was responsible for the report on residential

services is very misleading. I would say I'm very disappointed she would try to give this impression.

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: But not unexpected.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: This government has been very involved and very interested—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We can't hear the answer.

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: From last July. The minister had that report for two years.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

Interjections.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: The hon. leader of the Liberal Party should appreciate more than anyone else in this House the difficulties in trying to get the kind of treatment for the children of this province who need help.

Mr. S. Smith: You had the report for 20 months.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: And he above all, I would think, would appreciate the government's major reform in this area and would be so appreciative of what we are trying to do on behalf of the children of this province. These kinds of misleading comments are far beyond anything I can accept.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We can't hear. We're wasting time.

Mrs. Campbell: I wonder, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Is this supplementary?

Mrs. Campbell: No, it is not supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I'm asking the minister to address herself to the question I put as to whether or not the local communities, via the local committees, would continue to assume the full per diem responsibility as they did when this government evaded its financial responsibilities on the repeal of section 8.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Again I take uncton with some of the comments she's made.

An hon. member: It's a fact.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I would just like to say to her—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: —that it has been pointed out very clearly that there will be continuing consultation with the people who live in those communities—

Interjections.

Mr. Cassidy: You are too unctuous by now.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: —to see that the children really deserve the kind of attention they should have.

Mr. Reid: Who pays?

Mr. S. Smith: Who pays?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We can't hear the answer. I'm not even sure whether there is an answer or a question on the first part.

Mr. Breithaupt: Remind the minister.

[3:00]

Mr. Speaker: May I just remind the hon. members that when you ask a question, keep the editorial comment to a minimum—really zero—and the same thing with answering questions, of course. The question was a good question, I think, and I'm not sure even whether the answer was given because of the interruptions. I think there was an answer given to the last part. We'll allow another supplementary from the member for St. George on the answer.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, I guess, to make it as simple as I can: Who pays under this programme? Who has the right to assess the efficacy of the programme?

Mr. S. Smith: It is your friend who says "unction" when she means "umbrage."

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, I would again like to reiterate what we've said in both of our statements. There will be consultation as to the cost-sharing between local municipalities and the provincial government.

Mr. McClellan: May I ask the minister how quickly she'll be introducing legislation establishing the children's services committees?

Interjections.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I would refer that question to the Minister of Community and Social Services.

Mr. McClellan: May I redirect? Mr. Speaker, may I redirect?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, you may redirect.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the first stage of the consolidation of the youth services will be the introduction of legislation during this session to consolidate at the provincial level. During that time, as I indicated in my statement, we will be consulting initially with the regional municipalities since we see that government structure as the most likely one for early implementation.

Mrs. Campbell: They are paying now.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would anticipate that before the end of this year we would introduce the legislation with respect to the local committees. It would probably not be possible for that to be in place prior to some time early in 1978, but we will move as quickly as possible in order to have them established. I trust that the member—I'm sure he realizes—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —that the consolidation alone at the provincial level is in fact a major administrative undertaking—that it's going to take some time. We have set the target date at July 1 for the transfer of accountability from the units and the existing programmes in other ministries—transferring that to the new children and youth division—because of the fact that it's going to take that period of time, two or three months, in order to make sure that the mechanism is in place for a smooth transfer of responsibility so that we don't launch into something irresponsibly and end up with a mess. I think surely the member understands that that kind of a lead-in period is necessary. To reiterate my answer specifically to the member's question, I would hope that before the end of this year, we would have legislation before the House to set in place the local committees.

Mr. McClellan: That is a long way off.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Don't be so ridiculous. You know very well that is not a long way off.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please. We are wasting time with the interjections.

HOME BUYER GRANTS

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to a question on home buyer grants asked last Thursday by the member for Hamilton West. However, before answer-

ing the specific question, as the new Minister of Revenue I wish to make some observations about the grant programme.

Mr. S. Smith: Revert to statements—

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: In the past six weeks, I have made a point—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I have made a point of reviewing this programme and it is my conclusion—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I presume this is a short answer?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Yes, it is, sir.

Mr. Speaker: Otherwise, it should have been given as a ministerial statement earlier.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: No, sir.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Well, we'll time it. Thank you very much. The hon. minister.

Mr. Deans: On a point of order.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I have made a point of reviewing this programme—

Mr. Deans: On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: The minister has said that before she answers the question, she wants to make a statement with regard to the grant programme. This is not the time for ministerial statements.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: At this point in time, I cannot tell whether it's part of an answer. I can't tell what's been said—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: She said it is not.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please. The hon. minister will answer the question as she sees fit. If I decide that it's a ministerial statement, I shall add time on to it, but I'd suggest that statements of policy and other such like matters should be given as ministerial statements. Maybe this is really part of an answer; I don't know at this point in

time. I can't help what was said. We'll hear the hon. minister and then we'll decide.

Mr. Deans: The minister said it is not.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot tell.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, as part of the answer, I wish to provide a very few remarks as background.

Mr. Ruston: A few remarks?

Hon. Mr. Davis: This is as part of the answer.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I have made a point of reviewing this programme and it is my conclusion that the programme has been extremely successful in meeting the goals set forth by the government.

Mr. Sweeney: That is just propaganda. That is not an answer. That is not even correct.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: It materially assisted some 86,000 people in purchasing their first home. Indeed, more than a year after the end of the eligibility period—

Mr. Sweeney: That is on the election brochure.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: —we still get calls from people wanting to apply for a grant.

While there has been an attempt to paint a picture of a great ripoff by the citizens of this province upon the public purse I am pleased to say that this is simply not the case.

Mr. S. Smith: What is nine million?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: The vast majority of people applied in all honesty and sincerity. In the case of the limited number of applicants who received the grants in error, the mistakes that were made were mainly honest mistakes.

Mr. Sweeney: That is the only kind you make.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: In fact, after approximately one year of intensive audit, my ministry has discovered a two per cent error factor in grants paid to ineligible applicants.

Interjections.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: All the most flagrant cases of abuse were uncovered in the early stages of the audit. The ineligible recipients now being discovered are those who pur-

chased modestly priced homes and sincerely believed they were entitled to the grant. Sadly, recovery of these grants now works a real hardship on the families involved.

In response to the point raised by the member, out of 70,000 first supplementary grants of \$250 each paid to date, only 18 were paid to persons who had previously been identified by our auditors as ineligible recipients of the initial grant payment.

Mr. Sweeney: How could there be any if you had already identified them?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Of these, 10 have been repaid already and there are no problems anticipated in collecting the remaining eight.

In my reply to the hon. member I have expressed my views of the grant programme. Although the problem of enforcement is not a happy one, we are continuing the audit of the home buyer grants.

Mr. S. Smith: It is my understanding that there are 18 people who received the additional money even though they had been identified as ineligible in the first place, but there was another part to the question which I asked originally and I didn't hear whether she answered that, Mr. Speaker. That is, how much money has she recovered in total so far in her attempts to recover money from ineligible recipients, however honest the mistakes might have been in the first place?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: As I said in my statement, Mr. Speaker, it is two per cent—\$2,014,500.

Mr. S. Smith: You have recovered \$2,014,500?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: This is the amount that is being recovered, yes.

Mr. Makarchuk: A supplementary to the minister: How can the minister reconcile her statement that the mistakes were made by modest home purchasers with that of the auditor who said most of the mistakes were made by people who bought expensive homes?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: That is simply not so, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Can the minister tell the House how many audits her ministry has performed out of the total number of grants that have been given out by her ministry, and what her plans are with respect to the rest of the grants given out?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: This is a matter of public record at the present time. It's somewhere on the order of 25 per cent. A very high audit.

Mr. Peterson: And what are the minister's plans?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: As I said in my statement, the audit is ongoing.

Mr. Peterson: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Does that mean the minister plans to audit 100 per cent of the grants?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: No, Mr. Speaker, I made no statement to that effect.

Mr. Peterson: What does it mean? If it's ongoing it doesn't make any sense at all. What does it mean? What are the minister's plans?

Mr. S. Smith: You're still not going to audit them all?

Mr. Speaker: Do you have an answer? All right. One final supplementary. Is this a supplementary? No, okay.

Mr. Godfrey: Are we going to get an extension in the question-period time?

Mr. Speaker: No. As I recall the question, what was asked was partly answered.

The member for Bellwoods then with a question—I'm sorry, Algoma.

Mr. Cunningham: On a point of order, the last one was over here, I believe.

Mr. Speaker: An answer was given over here.

Mr. Cunningham: The answer was over here. The last question was over here.

Mr. Speaker: No, no. We go in rotation here, here and here and we are now back here. The hon. member for Algoma.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, on a point of clarification, am I given to understand then that the arbitrary answer of a question on this particular side of the House disrupts the question procedure?

Mr. Speaker: I answered that question a moment ago. I answered it and I said that what was said was, in my opinion, part of the original question. The member for Algoma, at last.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Mr. Wildman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Labour. In view of the widespread serious concern over the effects of coke-oven emissions on the health of workers at Algoma Steel and the protests from the United Steelworkers of America over the minister's decision not to hold public hearings in Sault Ste. Marie on the new omnibus workers' health and safety legislation, is she prepared now to reverse her position and schedule hearings in the Sault?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I spoke with the leaders of the steel workers in the Sault on Friday afternoon and told them at that time, and I will reiterate it now, that it was not possible to schedule all the hearings in all the centres that we would have liked to have scheduled them in. We should have had them, I suppose, in Peterborough, in Kingston, in Windsor, in Sarnia, in a number of areas.

However, what we have done is to try to centralize the hearings in places where it would be reasonably convenient for both employers and employees to present their points of view to the staff of the ministry regarding the proposed legislation. When I spoke to the steelworkers on Friday in the Sault, I suggested to them that if they had difficulty in attending meetings either in Thunder Bay or in Toronto, they could let me know and we would very seriously consider their request to have a special hearing in Sault Ste. Marie to accommodate them.

Mr. Wildman: Supplementary: Is the minister aware it is 400 miles to Thunder Bay or Toronto from Sault Ste. Marie, and if she is, is she willing to take into account the statement by her deputy minister in Sudbury on Thursday that he felt they should look very seriously at scheduling hearings in the Sault as part of their regular hearing process?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I do wish the hon. member would listen. I agreed completely with the kind of thing that my deputy specifically said.

Mr. Breaugh: Now, now, now; be nice.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am very much aware of the distances between Sault Ste. Marie and Toronto and Thunder Bay, but I would remind the hon. member, who lives in Sault Ste. Marie, that Sault Ste. Marie is only 185 miles from Sudbury.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary: Can the minister clarify whether the hearings in Thunder Bay are two days or one day? There seemed to be some confusion over the weekend.

Hon. B. Stephenson: They are two days in all the centres in which they have been established.

AIR POLLUTION

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. In view of the minister's decision to pay for the cleanup of lead-contaminated soils in the vicinity of the three Toronto lead smelters, will the minister apply this same principle and pay for the washing of insulators on Windsor utilities poles, insulators contaminated by air pollution emanating from Detroit industries?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated on Friday, this particular cleanup in Toronto can come within the provisions of health-related environmental projects. I also indicated that there was no final decision as far as the allocation of public funds for that cleanup. I question whether or not one can draw the analogy between what's happening in Toronto and the hon. member's proposal for the Windsor area. However, if the hon. member would send me more particular details, I would be happy to look at it.

Mr. Singer: How about the St. Clair River and mercury?

Mr. B. Newman: Supplementary: Is the minister aware that approximately two years ago a Mr. Donnelly Hadden, a US lawyer acting on behalf of 11 La Salle families, obtained \$117,500 in settlement as a result of air pollution from US industry? Will the minister join with the Windsor utilities in suing the air polluters from the American side, in the light of the fact that Mr. Hadden states that the case is a very good one and the chance of being successful is very high?

[3:15]

Hon. Mr. Kerr: We would be very happy to consider that.

STORMONT, DUNDAS AND GLENGARRY TEACHERS' DISPUTE

Mr. Samis: Question to the Minister of Education: In view of the fact that the secondary school teachers in the counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry have gone on strike this morning, could the minister advise the House if he's planning any special or personal initiatives in order to try to get the two sides back to the bargaining table?

Hon. Mr. Wells: We have already conferred with the Education Relations Commission. They stand ready, as they always do, to assist in this matter, and they have a mediator standing by to help the parties arrive at a satisfactory negotiated agreement.

Mr. Samis: Supplementary: In view of the fact that the dispute seems to revolve around working conditions, and because the board does not consider working conditions a negotiable item, is the minister satisfied that both parties are negotiating in good faith and within the spirit and terms of Bill 100?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I've seen nothing to indicate to me that either party in this dispute has been negotiating in bad faith. I think there are some very spirited negotiations going on, but I've seen nothing to indicate any bad faith.

GLENGOWAN DAM

Mr. Edighoffer: Question for the Minister of the Environment: As the main purpose of the new proposed Glengowan Dam in the Upper Thames watershed seems to have been changed from flood control to flow augmentation, would the Minister of the Environment make certain a review is undertaken under The Environmental Assessment Act?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Conservation authorities will come under the provisions of that Act, hopefully by June. At the present time, the authorities are working with people in my ministry to include various projects that are planned now, are on the books for the immediate future, so that we can get under way as far as those projects are concerned; and then, of course, any subsequent projects.

I'm aware of the controversy surrounding the Glengowan Dam, because of the changes the hon. member mentioned, and I would expect the authority would want us to hold a hearing in respect to that project.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Mr. McClellan: Question for the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, who I

think is still in the assembly: Given the fact that the Minister of Community and Social Services has indicated it will take upwards of a year, a year and a half, possibly two years before this scheme is in place and functioning—and I suspect that may be optimistic—could you tell us what measures you may have in order to deal with the kind of chaos that the report details—on a short-term basis, on an interim basis? Or do we have to live with this chaos for another year and a half or two years?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I'm sure the hon. member does appreciate how difficult it is to bring in three or four major ministries with children's programmes and do it very quickly. As the minister indicated, our desire is to have it integrated as smoothly as possible so as not to interrupt those programmes that are helping children at the moment; but it will be done as quickly as possible.

Mr. McClellan: Supplementary: May I ask the minister when she intends to respond with respect to the concerns that were raised at the PMLC meeting of January 21, given that she indicated she would be responding to those financial concerns by early March?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: The Minister of Community and Social Services and I will be at the PMLC meeting on April 15, I believe it is.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary: In view of the concern expressed by the ministry in relation to children's services, can the minister explain why children's aid budgets were so savagely cut back during the period that these recommendations were being—

Mr. Speaker: That is not a supplementary to the first question.

HOME WARRANTY PLAN

Mr. Givens: To the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Since the passing of The Ontario New Home Warranties Plan Act last year, what has the minister been doing to weed out all the bad actors, those who have been guilty of dishonesty and shoddy construction practices, who have defrauded people to the extent of thousands of dollars? Has he simply been registering everybody under the Act, or has he refused registration to anybody under the Act because of previous bad conduct on their part?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: If the hon. member has examined the Act, he knows we neither

register nor refuse to register anybody under it.

An hon. member: No, you don't.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It is administered by a completely independent board which handles all the registrations and the refusal of registrations. I am prepared to ask the board that question and see if I can get a reply for the hon. member.

Mr. Givens: A supplementary: Under section 7(b), isn't registration refusable to anybody who in the past has conducted himself in a way where we are afforded reasonable grounds for belief that he will not carry on his undertakings in accordance with law and with integrity and honesty? Don't the ministry and the registrar have the right under that to refuse registration? Isn't it a mockery under the Act for them to accept everybody with open arms?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I thought I made it clear that we don't accept anyone, and I don't have the right to refuse registration. The registrar does. The registrar is employed by the private sector. I am prepared to get a report from the board for the hon. member to tell him what has happened under the Act insofar as refusal of registration is concerned.

Mr. Samis: Since there was a report recently that, I believe, half the builders in the province still aren't registered with HUDAC, can the minister tell us what's being done to try to expedite the whole registration process?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We have asked the board of directors to put on additional staff. They have agreed to do that. There was absolutely no way of knowing the number of builders in this province, since they have never previously been registered, and we had underestimated the number and so had the board. However, we are prepared to try to catch up with that as quickly as possible.

ALLEGED OHIP FRAUDS

Mr. Duksza: I have a question to the Minister of Health. Can the minister tell me when he will introduce the amendments to The Health Insurance Act and others, if necessary, which will enable him to legally recover the OHIP overpayments to the sum of \$1,106,737 as defined in the recommendations of the medical review committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons as at June 30, 1976?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, as the member will recall from last Thursday's question period, I indicated then that we were considering whether legislation was required or administrative changes to carry out these procedures. I am not aware that there have been any difficulties in recovering any of the sums pinpointed through any of the audits, whether it be the profiles done by OHIP or whether it be audits by my inspection branch of particular laboratories and other facilities.

Mr. Duksza: Supplementary: The two cases which I mentioned on Thursday—the medical review committee against Wakil and the other one involving the College of Optometry—have put in jeopardy 175 cases which are waiting. The amount of money that I specified is over \$1 million. The ministry has recovered so far \$600,000. My question is, if the physicians decided now to recover that money which they paid and sue the ministry, will it be compelled to pay \$600,000 right now for the money already recovered?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I have had no such indication of that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Duksza: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary question, then, not a complete statement.

Mr. Duksza: Yes. Could the minister tell me then on what legal grounds he can assure me that these physicians will not attempt to recover this money when the court has already judged that The Health Insurance Act is actually inoperative?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I will review it further with the solicitors of our ministry. But in the previous reviews on several occasions since I took over the ministry, there has been no such indication that there's a danger of that. The member is not a lawyer, I'm not a lawyer; I'll check it again with those who are.

Mr. Duksza: But what—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. You are asking about the same question over again.

Mr. Duksza: I want to establish one thing, Mr. Speaker—whether the minister is aware of those two cases I am talking about and how they affect the functioning in his ministry in respect of recovering the funds—and he is not answering my question.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the cases; I indicated that last Thursday. Perhaps the member would read Hansard.

MARKET VALUE ASSESSMENT

Mr. Good: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Treasurer, I will direct this question on market value assessment to the Minister of Revenue. Since the Treasurer has indicated there is virtually no chance of implementing market value assessment on the present legal schedule which now exists, since he asserts that much more information on this subject will be needed, could the minister tell us why a complete data base was not developed prior to the Blair commission hearings so that both the public and the commission could have a better understanding of its implication? Secondly, why is a complete data base for the province not now available for a better study of the proposal?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I have no idea.

Mr. S. Smith: Why not?

Mrs. Campbell: We knew that.

Mr. Good: In reply to the answer, I'd like to ask a supplementary. When the minister does try to get an idea of that, would she also get an idea of—

Mr. S. Smith: Of anything.

Mr. Good:—how she expects a proper assessment of the implication of this to be of any value without a statement by government as to what its proposed grant structures might be to correlate with the market value assessment?

Mr. Peterson: At the same time that she's answering those questions—

Mr. Singer: Or not answering, as the case may be.

Mrs. Campbell: It's a waste of time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the member proceed?

Mr. Peterson:—I wonder if she could provide to the people of this province specific information on the specific nature of the impact of property market value assessment on certain communities.

HIRING OF HANDICAPPED

Mr. di Santo: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Last November the minister announced that the Ontario government would set an example for the private sector in hiring the handicapped. Could she tell us how the programme has been developing since January, when it was supposed to start?

Is the programme restricted to her department or open also to the other ministries? Third, as a result of this programme, has any handicapped person been hired by the government in the meantime?

Hon. B. Stephenson: The programme—the pilot project—is restricted to the Ministry of Labour at this time. The co-ordinator for the programme has been employed. The co-ordinator is reviewing with all the associations of handicapped individuals within the province of Ontario the names of potentially available handicapped persons to be employed in certain areas.

There are, to my knowledge, two who have been employed since, I think, December—actually before the programme started—as a result of the impetus of the programme, and more are being considered at this time. In addition, a programme of increasing awareness in an educative way is being developed by the ministry in order to assist other ministries to develop this kind of programme within their specific responsibilities once we have got ours really under way and functioning.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Mr. Laughren: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to standing order 28 and to the provisional rules which apply for this session, I wish to inform you, Mr. Speaker, that I am dissatisfied with the answer to the question on laryngeal cancer and compensation by the Minister of Labour and that I wish there to be an adjournment debate tomorrow night at 10:30. I have so notified the Clerk of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. So noted.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: As I indicated on Thursday last, I informed the House that I would take Mr. Bain's petition under consideration and inform the House as to whether or not it constitutes a proper petition to the House under the standing orders. At the same time, I said I would make a more comprehensive statement with respect to petitions.

[3:30]

As I stated on Thursday, we are proceeding at this session under the provisional changes to and additions to the standing orders as adopted by the House in 1970. These provisional changes and additions were adopted unanimously by the House on De-

cember 16, 1976. Paragraph 5 of that order specifies that the government shall provide a response to the House within two weeks to all petitions presented to the House. If this provision is to work, I am sure the members will agree that petitions must be only those properly within the jurisdiction of the House and presented by petitioners who knew when they signed that they were signing a petition to the Legislature.

If frivolous petitions or petitions which are intended for individual ministers—or on matters which are not within the jurisdiction of the House to remedy—are continuously tabled, the whole procedure of presenting petitions, which is a very ancient and important one—having originated in the 13th century—will be compromised to the point where it is useless. The public petition serves as the only mechanism by which an individual or the community can directly ask Parliament to change some aspect of the general law, rectify some personal or local grievance, or reconsider a general administrative decision.

I refer you to May's Parliamentary Practice, 19th edition, page 811, and W. F. Dawson's Procedure in the Canadian House of Commons, page 238. The history of the modern petition actually dates from the 17th century. In 1669 the Commons passed two resolutions which constitute the legal and philosophic foundation of the modern petition. These read as follows: "that it is the inherent right of every commoner in England to prepare and present petitions to the House of Commons in case of grievance, and the House of Commons to receive the same"; secondly, "that it is an undoubted right and privilege of the Commons to judge and determine, touching the nature and matter of such petitions, how far they are fit and unfit to be received."

In all jurisdictions of which I am aware, petitions may be sent to the table as provided in standing order 83. If, after examination, the Speaker rules that the petition is in order, it is deemed to be received by the House, and may be read by the clerk if required as provided in standing order 85, clause b of which provides that no debate may take place at that time unless on a complaint of some urgent personal grievance requiring immediate remedy, in which case, it will be taken into consideration immediately.

As to the substance of the petition it must, as I mentioned previously, relate to a subject matter over which Parliament has some control. Hence, the House will not receive a

petition relating to a matter which has been delegated to the control of another body. For example, in the House of Commons of Canada, a petition complaining that certain recommendations for the House have not been implemented by the Canadian Radio-Television Commission, was held by Mr. Speaker Lamoureux to be outside the House's purview. Moreover, a petition may not specifically ask for the expenditure of money. This principle is incorporated in our standing order 84.

In dealing with the substance of petitions, Mr. Speaker Jerome in the House of Commons of Canada recently made the following observations: "This is a representative institution and the elected representatives are the ones who should carry into this chamber opinions or reflections on the performance of the government, not messages from the outside brought in here in some other guise. A petition which seeks to place before the House the opinions of people who are not responsible elected members, ought to be viewed in accordance with the straight interpretation."

For the above reasons, it is my intention to receive petitions, and give myself time to study them. I anticipate that on the sitting day following the presentation of a petition by a member, I will be able to rule on the propriety of the petition. I, therefore, point out to the House that when sending a petition to the table a member should not make any comment on its contents. If and when the petition is declared to be in order, standing order 85 will then apply.

I also feel obliged to caution members that, in the past, documents purporting to be petitions have been offered to the House. These documents have, in fact, been altered after they were signed by the petitioner. I will insist that petitions be properly addressed to the House by the petitioner and that no alteration of the document takes place. My point simply is that petitioners must have known that they were petitioning Parliament, not only signing a document as an expression of views to an agency of government.

The House has gone a long way in modernizing the procedure on petitions and eliminating some of the ancient forms of speech which are still required in petitions presented to other jurisdictions. As stated, the only requirement we have really retained is that the petitioners must be aware of what they are signing and that this must be evident on the document they sign.

Finally, it appears clear to me that the House wishes to provide an avenue for the citizens of this province to address grievances directly to Parliament. The House has declared itself in this matter and it is incumbent on all of us to maintain the integrity of this procedure. I ask for the assistance and co-operation of all members.

Referring specifically to Mr. Bain's petition tabled last Thursday, while it does not appear evident that the signers knew they were petitioning Parliament, I am giving it the benefit of the doubt on this occasion and will accept it. But I urge upon the members that in future when a petition is circulated, it indicate that it is addressed to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly and is in fact a petition to the Legislature for the redress of a grievance. Under provisional rule 5, the government has until Monday, April 18, then to respond to this petition.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, may I make a comment on that statement and ask a question on a point of order? Since it is not a remedy that is used by members of the assembly but is a method by which the everyday citizen of the province can petition the government, would Mr. Speaker give consideration to publishing in the Ontario Gazette at least some form of specific statement showing what the form of the petition must be, similar to the detailed instructions which are given with respect to private bills? Otherwise, the citizen of the province will not know what this technical procedure may be, interesting as it may be to us in the assembly.

Mr. Speaker: I realize the difficulty. Do you wish to make a brief comment on this?

Mr. Breithaupt: I just wanted to comment as well, Mr. Speaker, that when you are considering the possible eventual reprinting of the rules of the House, as these other rules may well be included, not only the matter of an index, of which we had spoken as being possibly useful as an addition, but perhaps an example or two of a petition in the end papers of the rules of the House would be most useful.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, just before you complete your statement in this connection, since you are establishing ground rules for a procedure in this House, which we all hope will be used much more extensively than in the past, I didn't fully understand your prescription prohibiting a petition calling for the expenditure of money. I understand, of course, that only the government or the

advisers to Her Honour can introduce legislation calling for the expenditure of money, but it might very well be clear that in order to achieve redress, money would have to be spent.

For example, an easy indication would be an inadequate road system in a certain area. It may well be that money would have to be spent. I just wonder if further consideration might be given to your proscription and that in fact we might make it clear that petitioners might bring forward a petition that would call for the expenditure of money, if accepted by the government.

Mr. Speaker: We don't want to get into a debate on this.

Mr. Godfrey: It's important.

Mr. Speaker: I know it's important. If all members will read and digest what I have just read, I think it might be useful. I think the suggestions which have been made, by the way, are quite reasonable. We'll certainly try to be as helpful as we can in those regards, such as an example of a petition to the Parliament and other suggestions here. I think we can fund these. Also it might be helpful to get together on an informal basis to discuss these various things. I know I have been involved, along with the other presiding officers and the clerk's staff, with quite a lengthy discussion on what is really meant by the word "petitions."

As we reflect upon this, on reading the statement which I have just made and applying it to rule 5 in the new provisional order, I think we should start on that basis.

To answer the query of the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, rule 84 in our standing orders is quite clear in that regard. If there is a matter of interpretation of what is the expenditure of public moneys, which is the next thing, I don't think we can get into that and explain it here. But I think a little thought upon the statement will be helpful.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a constructive suggestion. The new procedural affairs committee was intended to advise on matters like this. I certainly have grave reservations about a number of the things in your statement. I fear it may put us back to where we were a couple of years ago where petitions have to be vetted by the table before they can actually be raised publicly in the House. Would it be possible for the recommendations that have been put forward to be treated as that, rather than as a ruling, and for the matter and the comments therefor thereon to

be considered by the new procedural affairs committee?

Mr. Speaker: They need not be vetted by the table before they are presented. You may present them and I'll examine them and report the next day to the House as to the propriety and reasons therefor. But I might say with the new standing order 5, petitions become very important and they must be true petitions or the process as requested and instructed by the House will break down.

Mr. Godfrey: On a point of information.

Mr. Speaker: I still think, rather than getting into a number of questions here, we should examine the statement because it's pretty hard to grasp. It's quite a lengthy statement. Is there anything that needs immediate clarification?

Mr. Godfrey: The problem is that there are a number of petitions, I'm sure, being signed at this very minute throughout Ontario. Are you going to rule these out?

Mr. Speaker: Well, maybe. If they're not petitions to the House on something on which the House can properly act, then they are not true petitions. Mind you, many of the things which have been entered as petitions can be certainly handled by the House, but not under petitions, if I may say, and that can be explained at any meeting which you might decide to hold.

Mr. Deans: One point, if I may: Wouldn't this be a suitable matter to refer to the new procedural affairs committee?

Mr. Speaker: I still think if people read the statement and think about it, a lot of questions will be answered. If further clarification is needed, I would suggest we have a meeting caucus by caucus or whatever you have to discuss the matter and explain it. Petitions are now—and I say it again—a very important order and they should be proper petitions, or otherwise the House cannot properly deal with them.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Motions.

Introduction of bills.

TAX REFUND DISCOUNTS ACT

Mr. Davison moved first reading of Bill 15, An Act to regulate Transactions Involving the Purchase of Tax Refunds by Discount.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Davison: The purpose of this bill is to regulate certain business practices relating to the purchase of tax refunds by discount. The bill limits the amount of the discount which may be charged when a person enters a transaction of this nature. The bill requires that the person who purchases a tax refund must pay at least 95 per cent of its value to the person selling his right to the refund.

ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS CODE AMENDMENT ACT

Mrs. Campbell moved first reading of Bill 16, An Act to amend The Ontario Human Rights Code.

Motion agreed to.

Mrs. Campbell: By way of explanation, the purpose of this bill is to prohibit discrimination on the basis of an individual's sexual orientation.

[3:45]

PUBLIC UTILITIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. B. Newman moved first reading of Bill Pr 17, An Act to amend The Public Utilities Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to set up a review committee before a public utility can shut off water, Hydro, gas, oil or telephone. The exploding costs of gas, oil and energy, including electricity, has made it extremely difficult for many to be able to meet their bills on time.

GOOD SAMARITAN ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved first reading of Bill Pr 18, An Act to Relieve Persons from Liability in Respect of Voluntary Emergency Medical and First Aid Services.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of The Good Samaritan Act is to relieve persons from liability in respect of voluntary emergency first aid assistance or medical services rendered at or near the scene of an accident or any other sudden emergency.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise to reply to the Throne Speech, since I suspect it will be the last opportunity before we hit the hustings sometime in 1977 to do so and therefore I'd like to set a number of matters before the House and before the government.

I'd like to start, if I may, rather than with the usual frivolity, right at the end of the Throne Speech itself and try to set a tone for the government House leader, who is here, if not the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), who wouldn't believe me anyway. On page 29 of the Throne Speech it says, Mr. Speaker: "With dependable legislative co-operation, it can be achieved"—meaning the programme of the government—"by this assembly by the end of the present year." I want the government House leader to know and to report to the Premier (Mr. Davis) that while there will be volatile moments from time to time in this legislative chamber—we witnessed them this afternoon, we witnessed them last Friday morning—by and large we on this side of the House, in the official opposition, will be positive models of co-operation.

Mr. Breithaupt: Except when he moves his amendment.

Mr. Lewis: The government cannot possibly—except perhaps for the occasional amendment—the government cannot possibly ask of us more co-operation than it will get. We come from that inheritance—members may recall the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. Co-operation is an endemic, genetic part of every social democrat in this House and I want to assure the Premier, through the leader of the House, that we will certainly assist in the passage of useful and important legislation.

There are, of course, important things to do which flow from the Throne Speech. No one denies that. It would seem that, from time to time, minority government is acceptable to the people of Ontario. I myself was surprised, during a recent CBC radio noon phone-in on minority government, to find a very large number of people calling in to say that they hoped it went on virtually forever. Therefore, without prolonging it,

we will not be distracted by procedural trifles, not trapped into the irrelevance of turning this place into a steaming cauldron for the sake of a challenge to the Chair or some such. But if there is an issue which genuinely divides us, as I suspect and I'm sure there will be on more than one occasion, so be it. If that should lead to the campaign which everyone now talks about, so be it. There is neither fear nor hesitation on this side of the House if that comes about.

The Throne Speech itself, Mr. Speaker, was not bad as Throne Speeches go. I have said that before and I say it again. I guess I've been in this House 30 or 40 years—so it seems—but I've certainly listened to 13 or 14 Throne Speeches. As they go, consistent in their rhetorical and substantial mediocrity, this is a trifle better and I won't cavil with that. It's ironic that the government should receive such plaudits, even on occasion from the opposition, for simply including in a Throne Speech that which it is a job of any normal government to do. As a matter of fact, the Throne Speech largely compensates for errors of omission which have harassed and been characteristic of this government for the last several decades.

Doesn't it trouble the government members to be talked of in terms of decades?

Mr. Grossman: No.

Mr. Lewis: But in truth we'll try—no, I guess it doesn't—we'll try to overcome that.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It's nice to be a part of the heritage.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, I guess it is. They begin to take it for granted, don't they; and then these trifling setbacks are always the more traumatic for it.

We will deal with a number of matters which flow specifically in the Throne Speech, and I don't hesitate to make the acknowledgement that some of them are worthwhile.

In NDP terms—if I may, Mr. Speaker, address the members opposite—the Throne Speech showed two things. Number one, it showed how contained the government is in its approach and therefore how much further we would wish it to go in a number of specific and important areas. For the government, politics remain still the art of the possible—or the art of the minimum I suppose would be more accurate. For the New Democrats, of course, politics remain the art of the reasonable. We are angelic by comparison.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The art of the impossible.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The art of the impossible.

Mr. Reid: At least he didn't say it was the art of the rational.

Mr. Lewis: It sounds magnificently reasonable to me. I kind of like the juxtaposition, Mr. Speaker; it flows lightly off the tongue. The art of the minimum versus the art of the reasonable; I think that flows neatly and shows the differences on opposite sides of this House.

Mr. MacDonald: You're obviously not too quick over there.

Mr. Lewis: More than that, the government Throne Speech also demonstrated a number of fundamental areas of disagreement, partly by what it included partly by what it omitted; a number of areas that evoke profound ideological difference between the official opposition and the government. That's fine. That's what a Throne Speech should do; and in many ways that's what is healthy for the politics of Ontario and wouldn't they be sad if we didn't polarize it that way anyway, eh fellows?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Absolutely.

Mr. Lewis: So, in fact, we are accommodating them by drawing attention to the reality of politics in this province.

What I'd like to do is try to illustrate first where the differences between how far the government has gone and how far it should go are apparent in a number of specific issue areas, and then speak to various fundamentals which emerge from the speech.

First, a number of specifics, just to give you a sense of what we mean, Mr. Speaker. Number one, rent control—or, lest I offend dear Sidney, rent review; right. He is not the only Sidney to say it was a far far better thing that you have done. In any event—

Mr. Foulds: You know what happened to him.

An hon. member: Guillotined.

Mr. Breithaupt: But not until the last moment.

Mr. Lewis: Well, what happened to him at times this Sidney would prefer. I want to submit, Mr. Speaker, it was perfectly logical for rent review and rent control to be extended, and to the extent of that logic

we can support it. But isn't it absurd that, having had the opportunity to deal again with the rent control-rent review process, the government is clearly determined simply to give an imprimatur on what already exists without taking into account some basic and useful reforms?

For example, the government could of course lower the percentage rent increase which is permissible, to follow again the wage and price guidelines which permeate the rest of the economy. It could of course lower it to six per cent. Clearly the government has already indicated that it won't do that because it is absolutely tenacious in its ideological rigidity.

The government could also use the whole reform of rent review legislation to provide for important and fundamental administrative reforms of the process. The administrative process in rent review is a nightmare for those who experience it. In several instances, particularly as it applies to appeal, the administrative aspect comes virtually to an end. The Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) knew better than most to exempt himself from the field as quickly as possible. He is a relatively logical man. He can find his way from A to C via B. The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handelman), on the other hand, finds it difficult finding A, let alone going beyond. As a result the administrative process in rent review is really impaired.

I want to remind the members opposite—

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: Am I going to be heckled? Is there no safety in numbers? This is what I hoped for.

I now want to read, via the Chair, to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, the fascinating comment made by Brian Bucknell, the associate professor of law at Osgoode Hall, who has written the first major paper on the rent review process. You will know, Mr. Speaker, he was a tenant representative on the rent review board before he removed himself. His paper was called "Rent Review in Ontario: Policy, Politics and the Well Paved Road." Just let me read a paragraph into the record for the edification of the House:

"While many of the policies embodied in the rent review programme are open to debate, there are two fundamental assumptions which from both a substantive and administrative point of view shaped and misshaped the whole scheme.

"The first of these assumptions was, as noted previously, that rent control could be a temporary measure, that a two-year life span for the whole programme was acceptable and that the administrative structure required by the programme could be assembled, have its work completed and be disassembled within 18 months. Obviously the decision to have a temporary scheme had no foundation in economic theory and it can only be regarded as a political response of a disaffected government to a programme which it disliked.

"The other assumption was that the rent review programme could be established and administered wholly separate from the general law of residential tenancies. Rent control is in theory inseparable from a regime of security of tenure."

The maladministration of rent review haunts the validity of the programme. It makes it for many tenants in the province of Ontario unworkable. If the minister had one whit or spark of creative juices about him, he would use the opportunity of the extension of rent control to provide for a complete re-vamping of the administration of the Act. I dare say, Mr. Speaker, that that will not happen; and it is because it won't happen that the New Democratic Party finds itself at variance, again, with the government.

I really think—and I want to say this as genuinely as I can, because I have no ill feeling at all for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations—he is the wrong minister for rent review-rent control. As a matter of fact, if I may submit to you humbly, Mr. Speaker, he is the wrong minister for anything to do with consumer protection—anything at all, whether it's rents or whether it's television repairs. His refusal to consider a simple intrusion on the private marketplace to protect consumers from illegitimate private behaviour makes this often unworkable; and it leads to the minister's own lovable eccentricities, which then govern, piously, the programmes we implement.

Making the member for Carleton Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations is almost as silly as making the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener) Minister of Revenue. In both instances it simply doesn't make sense.

[4:00]

The second specific I want to draw attention to—not to mention beer at the ball game, which I wouldn't let past my lips for fear, either.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: What, the beer or the comment?

Mr. Lewis: The second point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, relates to the alleged programme in the Throne Speech to stimulate rental accommodation and to continue the government's increase of the building of low-income family housing. We've heard so often in Throne Speeches the stimulating of rental accommodation it seems hardly necessary to pay it heed now. I can only say that we will wait with appropriate anxiety what the government is going to do, although its actions have belied its words a thousand times before. In terms of the significant pretensions—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You haven't got an envelope yet? Didn't you get an envelope yet?

Mr. Lewis: No, I haven't but I will. I will and I'll see the programme.

In terms of the pretensions over the building of low-income family housing I also want to remind the government how little the facts jibe with the rhetoric in the Throne Speech. It talks about increasing the continued increase of low-income family housing. Can I remind the government of something? Before the Ministry of Housing was formed we were building low-income family units in Ontario—socially assisted housing—at somewhere between 2,000 and 8,000 units a year. Then we created the Ministry of Housing, in October, 1973. In 1974 we built 494 units of socially assisted family housing for all of Ontario. In 1975 we built 474 units; and in 1976 we built 202 units for all of Ontario.

Mr. MacDonald: Shame.

Interjection.

Mr. Lewis: The minister doesn't think that's valid? The figures come from his ministry. Those figures are for low-income, socially assisted housing.

Mr. Cassidy: They're right on, and you know it.

Mr. Lewis: That doesn't include the senior citizens' housing, which is a separate component, in which he also hasn't been making any great strides.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: What else?

Mr. Lewis: What else?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Go ahead, there must be more.

Mr. Lewis: No, that's it.

Mr. MacDonald: How much more devastating do you want it to be?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Housing will have an opportunity to enter into the Throne Speech debate later on.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: On a point of order—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is nothing out of order.

Mr. Breithaupt: That's a matter of judgement, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: My apologies.

Mr. Lewis: Your apologies are accepted—on behalf of the Speaker. I want to remind the minister—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I have always known the Deputy Speaker to be a man who could speak for himself. He doesn't need the Leader of the Opposition to speak for him.

Mr. Lewis: The Leader of the Opposition is a close enough friend of the Deputy Speaker—

Hon. Mr. Davis: In fact, if you listened to him more often you guys would be better off.

Mr. Lewis: —to know when to be cautious. I see him in a reasonable mood and I am taking advantage of it while it exists, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Just don't press.

Mr. Lewis: Fair enough. I simply ask the Minister of Housing, therefore, if he'd like to document and refute the facts by all means, but in socially assisted, low-income family housing, his record has been dreadful. It speaks volumes about his ministry.

As a matter of fact, it might as well be said now: the Minister is turning OHC administration over to the municipalities; he is selling HOME land to the private sector as fast as he can; he's reducing the number of houses that he can build generally; he's tying himself into the federal programmes—AHOP in particular—so that the province has very little involvement. The minister is dismantling the Ministry of Housing with an adroit facility. He is in fact making himself a minister without portfolio.

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: The only thing desirable about it is that the people didn't suffer.

Mr. Lewis: The third point I wanted to make to the Premier, just in a brief review

of some of the ingredients of the Throne Speech, has to do with the royal commission on the freedom of information and individual privacy. Again, as in rent, as in housing, it's another missed opportunity.

And if I may say, earnestly, to the Premier, it just doesn't make sense. The government has all kinds of laws to choose from, and what we are receiving on this side of the House and in the public in general, is the beneficence of a government that is unwilling to share what it regards as secrets. This is in fact—if I may respectfully say through the Speaker—a very secretive government. Its members think that government secrecy is somehow the art of politics; it is, of course, the bane of democracy.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Not at all. We are interested in some measure of privacy.

Mr. Lewis: I appreciate the measures of privacy, that need not deny freedom of information. I want to remind the government, since I see the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) shaking her head, I want to remind the minister and her colleagues how long the government sat on that report on residential treatment for children before it was publicly released. If the minister wants to understand—

Mr. Breithaupt: Twenty months.

Mr. Lewis: —the feelings of those on this side of the House about whether or not it is genuine in what was advanced today, one need only put it in the context of the absolutely indefensible secrecy which the government tolerated for 15 months.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It really is silly.

Mr. Lewis: I hope, through you to the Premier, Mr. Speaker, that this commission will mean something. My colleagues the members for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) and Wentworth (Mr. Deans) found it a matter of some irony that the man chosen to head the commission, Dr. Carlton Williams, past president of Western University, was during the time of his tenure one of the people who refused to give information to the select committee on economic and cultural nationalism when it asked for it; and that makes one worry just a little about the nature of the commission.

May I say to the Premier, as gently as I can, I think he knows that I have, and my party has, complimented the government on certain appointments. Whether it was Arthur Porter or Arthur Maloney, on very

many occasions we congratulated the government on the appointment. May I say this appointment is one of its lesser marvels. I say no more than that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is too bad, because he is a very able person and will do extremely well.

Mr. Peterson: The Leader of the Opposition is very wrong. He is very wrong.

Mr. Foulds: Not in that field.

Mr. Peterson: If he knew the man he would change his mind.

Mr. Lewis: If the commission turns out to be an excellent commission, I'll accept it.

Mr. Speaker, the next point I want to deal with in terms of the items—

Hon. Mr. Davis: On a point of information, I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition could tell us as to the extent of the freedom of information Acts in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, how far-reaching they are—

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Or British Columbia.

An hon. member: What about Alberta?

Mr. Lewis: May I proceed now, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Lewis: I don't feel constrained to answer. I don't know if there is a freedom of information Act in Manitoba or Saskatchewan. I wouldn't really wish to prolong it—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is out of order, unless you specifically accept it.

Mr. Lewis: May I move next, Mr. Speaker, to an item in the Throne Speech relating to initiatives in French language in the English schools. I doubt, in fact I'm sure, no one in the opposition benches will oppose such initiatives. But what an enormous pity that at this moment in time the government couldn't bring itself to a collective initiative, which would be applauded right across the country, of making the French language obligatory, in a number of grades in the elementary system at least, so that finally we could have French language instruction in Ontario which began to be universal. That's not something which anyone in this Legislature on the opposition benches has resisted, it seems to me, over the last number of months or years.

It is something which the government could have won from this House easily and willingly; and it is an example, again, of the difference between the extent to which the

government is prepared to proceed and the extent to which we in the opposition think it ought to proceed. I am sorer than I can say that on this matter the ministry was unwilling to take its courage in its hands for the sake of whatever opulent carrot it is prepared to offer the various school boards.

The fifth point I want to make about minor matters arising from—if not minor of less than fundamental weight—arising from the Throne Speech, is the question of some of the multicultural initiatives which seem to be inherent in that speech—English as a second language and the reference to a heritage-language programme; I'm not at all sure what that will mean, obviously at some point we will learn.

But again, it seemed to us to be an opportunity to put to the province of Ontario, through the vehicle of the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, a number of specific and particular initiatives which would have given a tremendous measure of good feeling and reassurance to many communities, naturally a little anxious now because of our public obsession and preoccupation with matters English and French and matters Ontario and Quebec.

What might have been appropriate for the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, if I can submit, is a proposal which would have earmarked specific funds to school boards for the provision of English as a second language, because the programme is still far too amorphous.

The government might have expressed it in terms of a specific weighting factor and spoken to the concerns, although not yet policies, which the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) has expressed, and my colleague from Oakwood and others have expressed. The government might have amended, or announced intention to amend The Education Act to permit the teaching of languages other than English and French at all levels in a way which would encourage the boards to do so; funded considerably by government, not unlike what it is now doing with the teaching of the French language; hopefully never having to resort to the extremity of the Essex county situation, although that becomes unavoidable.

But why was it that we have to have, instead, a vague reference to a heritage language programme when we might have done this kind of thing specifically? Not to mention, in other parts of the province like the northern parts, an amendment to The Education Act which could have provided for

Cree and Ojibway to be put on a similar footing.

And further, Mr. Speaker, there might have been a specific initiative in the Throne Speech which spoke to the experience of teachers in the various education colleges, in order to provide teachers from a much wider multiplicity of backgrounds to teach, not to mention providing a sensitivity to some of the more difficult problems.

In the midst of the present crisis in the country, Mr. Speaker, none of us can afford to forget the wealth and variety of languages and cultures which make the composite of Ontario. It would have been nice to see something other than the facile reference to heritage languages in the Throne Speech. That's something, again, where we would like to take the government rather further than it was prepared to go.

It is, I guess, worth pointing out that these are the same groups of people, largely immigrant groups of people, who are experiencing enormous economic problems at this point in time. I judge an absolutely disproportionate number are unemployed, with terrific inflationary pressure to boot; and one senses the need for a demonstration of faith contained in the Throne Speech. It was not there.

Number six, Mr. Speaker, I might like to make reference to what was tabled today in the Legislature in the consolidation of children's services in the province of Ontario and the striking of a provincial authority. I am not willing to cavil, nor do I want to get into the argument about who was responsible for bringing it—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well they weren't, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: —but I can remember back to debates in this Legislature when William Davis was a mere Minister of Education—

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's right.

Mr. Lewis: —in the middle 1960s, when the therapeutic environments for emotionally disturbed children were discussed most heatedly. I have often wondered to myself since, and I'd like to pursue it when the bill is actually introduced, what went wrong. I have a feeling that we concentrated our energies with such focus on young children that we forgot the adolescent range.

We did provide some important social changes for kids of six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11; it was really quite fundamental and quite dramatic and quite important. But somehow the pressure of the disturbed

adolescent in Ontario society escaped this legislative forum; things went from bad to worse, as a result of the enormous proliferation of statutes—group homes, therapeutic settings, whether it was a psychiatric hospital, a Thistle town, a children's boarding home, a children's institution, a centre under The Children's Mental Health Centres Act—and then the residential report chronicled it all.

[4:15]

We have on this side of the House some anxieties about what the government has introduced. We have some considerable anxiety about how long it seems it is going to take before the local or regional groups get together to decide on rationalizing the system, sorting it out and finding the money to pay. We will be pressing very hard to get some details about that. But I want to put to the minister, because I know she is genuine in this, something that worries me personally even more greatly, although I suppose it isn't the kind of thing on which one bases opposition to the principle. I have a feeling, intuitive but firm, that we have chosen the wrong ministry.

One of the reasons that we have had this incredible consequence of children in trouble in Ontario flows directly from the previous Department of Social and Family Services, which was completely inadequate to deal with it. The minister may recall that the reason we set up The Children's Mental Health Centres Act under the Ministry of Health was because the Department of Social and Family Services was utterly incapable of dealing with it. They never seemed to have the capacity or the apparatus. I think that was partly because it is seen as a welfare ministry, and I guess it will never be seen otherwise.

I have heard nothing but positive things about Judge Thomson, for example, from all those I have talked to. And I understand that the civil service appointment from Management Board—is it Barnes or whoever?—is a go-getter, an active person; so maybe there will be reasonable administration. But I really wonder about the competence of Comsoc, whether it is under the present minister or anybody else, to handle it.

I want to remind the minister that when we moved mental retardation from Health into Comsoc it was an utter disaster. Not only did we have to have an inquiry into Huronia shortly after, but no one can persuade anybody in this province who is knowledgeable that that ministry has adequately handled the mentally retarded or

that services in the community have been provided, as the member for Brock (Mr. Welch), when he was Provincial Secretary for Social Development, promised in his now infamous green paper or white paper, or whatever the devil it was. One worries about that ministry.

I would have thought in the best of all possible worlds—and we think in terms of the best of all possible worlds over here—that Education might have been the place. An educational environment is really what you want for these kids—not in the strict learning sense, but in the sense that if kids are identified earlier, responded to through the educational process, and integrated early, then you don't have to set up separate institutional arrangements for them.

By setting up a children's authority, a separate division, in the Ministry of Community and Social Services, I wonder whether we are doing anyone a favour ultimately. I understand the politics of it. I understand the difficulty of it. I am expressing a grave personal reservation. I worry about all of the implications. I look at the rest of the programmes in Comsoc and, honest to God, I don't know how the children will not be defiled by the inadequacy of the rest of the ministry. With all of the best will in the world, the whole inheritance of that ministry, precludes an appropriate setting. But I don't know what one does, other than to register as strongly as I can what would have made more sense; and politics often becomes the art of what is essentially common sense.

The other thing I want to put to you, Mr. Speaker, is this question of the new occupational health and safety statute. It is the last specific item I would like to make reference to that flows from the Throne Speech. Again, who would dispute it? But if I may say to the House leader, and to the Premier in the wings, we in this caucus are increasingly worried about the way in which occupational health is still being dealt with, despite the alleged successes or advances we have made.

For example, may I ask, plaintively, where is the occupational health institute that was promised by this government in the last throes of the 1975 election campaign? And why the devil don't we have it? Does not the government yet recognize that an occupational health institute of that kind is absolutely indispensable to do the kind of scientific and educational range of work without which individual statutes are of only modest use or modest application?

Because there hasn't been a focus—because the government has refused to en-

certain that vehicle which could have said something to the world—then, if I may, I submit there are a number of matters arising which worry many of us greatly.

Why are we having the perversion of Bill 139, which was passed in good faith in this House? How is it that the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) is prepared to side with the International Nickel Company over the question of whether or not a worker has a right to leave a place which he or she believes to be unsafe?

I mean, we passed it in the House in good faith. Nobody ever believed in this Legislature—never—that a worker who left a job because he believed on reasonable grounds that it was unsafe, would then be sent home without pay and that some other worker, who could be dragooned into it, would step in to do the job. No one thought that that would be the interpretation of the legislation in this House.

That's a breaking of faith. It's a breaking of faith in the field of occupational health on the part of the Minister of Labour. And it is simply unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

Why this instinctive wish to close out the media to the public hearings that were being held on the new omnibus bill? It again bespeaks the same frame and attitude of mind which still worries about whether occupational environmental health should be shared with the public, with workers, with all of the people who might otherwise be interested. Why are we still relying, and intend to rely in the new legislation, on threshold limit values that come from this conference of industrial hygienists in the United States, whose values are largely discredited in the more progressive and enlightened scientific community, but by which values our workers, in our work place, will be governed?

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if I can ask the House leader, in the absence of the Minister of Labour, whether he heard Mr. Cleverdon, head of the occupational health division of the Ministry of Labour, recently on radio—a Radio AM programme—after my colleague from Hamilton East had raised a question of asbestos dust at the airport.

I heard rumours of what Mr. Cleverdon said. I didn't believe them. When I was at Radio Noon doing a recent show a few days ago, I asked to hear the tape and listened to it; and I want to say to the Legislature, Mr. Speaker, I couldn't believe it.

Mr. Cleverdon, who heads an important branch of government, with the greatest respect in the world to the man, doesn't

know what he is talking about. He got his figures wrong. He got his assumptions wrong. He provided sweeping reassurance for which there is utterly no evidence anywhere. And he didn't seem to recognize that asbestos is, I guess, the single most dangerous contaminant in the work place we have yet come across.

I felt again as though something was wrong about how concerned we are prepared to be around this issue.

I was shocked, I want to tell you—I don't know how else to phrase it—when the new Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. F. S. Miller) went up to Matachewan to meet with the workers after the closing down of that asbestos mine and is quoted in the *Globe and Mail* as saying: "On the subject of environmental controls Mr. Miller described the government's health standards for workers exposed to asbestos dust in the work place as among the strictest in the world. 'The trouble with our standards is whether we have erred on the side of being too strict.'"

"Mr. Miller said his minority government was forced—" that's the verb he uses—"forced to adopt the stringent occupational health standard."

You have to wonder what happens to normally reasonable people when they move into the Ministry of Natural Resources. It's like a kind of a metamorphosis, you know. It's a science fiction transmogrification or whatever the word might be. But anyway, poor Frank Miller is transfigured the moment he moves into Natural Resources and has to thump the party line; and if that can be true of a man who was in the Ministry of Health, who fought these battles through, who one assumes would have supported, rather than seeing it as a coercive act, better environmental health standards, God help the ministry; that ministry is an absolute menace.

I'll deal with the Workmen's Compensation Board in this matter of occupational health in just a little while, Mr. Speaker, but around this particular matter we are sensing an absence of good faith and would wished to have sensed otherwise.

All right, Mr. Speaker, what I guess I'm trying to say to the Premier is that there are a whole range of specific items in the Throne Speech where we would have taken things much further. But we fully recognize that he has taken it, recognizing or paying tribute to the art of the minimum, as far as he is prepared to go. However, there are a number of fundamentals which I'd also like to raise with the Premier, and the most profound area of disagreement, the one which is most compell-

ing for this caucus, an issue on which we know one day we will divide, whether it's in the House or outside, is the question of management or mismanagement of the economy of the province of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is interesting that at long last you are interested.

Mr. Lewis: We have been putting it for a long period of time in terms of the management of the economy.

Mr. Deans: Continuously.

Mr. Lewis: Continuously.

Mr. Deans: You never listen.

Mr. Renwick: Since the member for Brampton became Premier.

Mr. Lewis: That's right, as a matter of fact it began with his ascension to Premier. That's when we really twigged to the frailties and that's when we took it on seriously. But I want to remind him, lest he has forgotten, although his memory is legendary, of all those years in the early and mid Seventies when we on this side of the House tried unsuccessfully to persuade his intractable hordes that inflation was doing terrible damage to Ontario and that unless he did something about curtailing prices and profits we were going to be in a real jackpot in this province in the management of the economy; and we could never persuade him at all.

But we knew, for whatever worth it was, that in the context of the economy that was central then; just as, if I may say, unemployment has become equally central now.

Now in terms of the mismanagement of the economy, the Tories pay lip service to it, I understand. Those are some very gracious and elegant words in the Throne Speech, and again no one can deny them; but when Darcy McKeough, Treasurer of Ontario, rose in his place on Friday morning to make the statement he made it all become fairly clear. When all is said and done, the Tories are simply going to opt for the traditional, economic sophistry. They're going to opt for those old-fashioned, traditional economic approaches, which have brought us to this pass, and have in fact characterized, indeed defined the problem for the last several years. From the point of view of this party, we think that the focus now must be equally shared with jobs. As a matter of fact, in many areas jobs are transcendent and we have to rip ourselves free of this conventional, self-serving assumption that it's got to be an either/or proposition. As far as we're concerned, we can do something about controlling inflation while at

the same time creating employment. It's as simple as that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: One of these ways is not to restrict capital programmes.

Mr. Lewis: Well I will come—

Hon. Mr. Davis: You people love to have it both ways.

Mr. Lewis: Were you engaging in some kind of doctrinal forum?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Just to the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald), for whom I have great respect and affection, one day he's worried about jobs and the next day he wants to limit the programme of Hydro where there's a lot of jobs involved.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order please, the hon. member will continue.

Mr. Lewis: As a matter of fact, I'll get to Hydro, I'm very pleased the Premier has introduced it. It allows me another entry point, as it were. But I'll get to that in just a moment. This isn't—

Hon. Mr. Davis: I didn't mean to interrupt.

Mr. Lewis: No, I know he didn't and, perish the thought, I never interrupt him.

This is not a budget reply and I'm not going to make it into that—we're going to have a great deal more to say about the management of the economy in this province when we reply to the budget—but obviously there is a deep concern expressed in the Throne Speech about jobs and the economy and I want to reply to it.

[4:30]

I want to reply to it starting this way, if I may, Mr. Speaker. There is a conventional mythology in Ontario, generally afoot, that the Tories are not bad economic managers, except that the facts constantly refute the assumption. I know the problems of Ontario aren't separate from Canada, they're not separate from North America. We are reminded ad infinitum about international markets and all the matters that impinge on this poor, fragile flower here in Ontario.

But on the other hand there is a very great deal of initiative and understanding which we could exercise and which we are not exercising. The role of the province of Ontario and the pretension of the Tory government as good economic managers is severely under attack, and I suspect that crescendo is going to mount rather than abate over the next number of months.

Let me remind the House of something. Let me remind it first of last week's tabling of Ontario finances by the provincial Treasurer. This is, in many ways, quite a testament to the provincial Treasurer. Do the members know what it shows? If I can provide a simple dossier for my colleagues in the House: Number one, it shows that revenues were understated. Number two, it shows that—sorry. I'll start again. I'll start at the other end.

Mr. Shore: You were close. You were close.

Mr. Lewis: I'll start at the other end. Number one, it shows that economic growth was overstated by the Treasurer. Number two, it shows that expenditures of government were understated by the Treasurer. Number three, it shows that the revenues to be received were overstated by the Treasurer. Number four, it shows that unemployment was underestimated by the Treasurer. And number five, it shows that the provincial deficit was exaggeratedly understated by the provincial Treasurer. In other words, on all five economic indices of major import, the Treasurer was wrong. Dead wrong. That takes some doing, because he's been around for quite a while.

Mr. Makarchuk: That's nearly 100 per cent.

Mr. Foulds: He should resign.

Mr. Lewis: What it shows is a capacity—well, I don't think you'll disagree with any of those matters. I think it shows a capacity for consistent prophetic error, or alternately, consistent rhetorical cant, and that's what we have received from this Treasurer for a considerable period of time. I think what it's going to do is to call into serious question the capacity of the government to make further economic forecasts. I ask the House, albeit the Premier treats it with a benign smile, to think that with all of the Treasury apparatus around him he can be wrong on revenues, wrong on expenditures, wrong on growth, wrong on deficit, wrong on employment, all by the same man, all within the period of 11 months. Not bad. Not bad.

Mr. Makarchuk: Almost a perfect score.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: I put it to the House as an interesting example of the mythology of the Conservative capacity to manage the economy.

I want to take that to a second point. The mismanagement also abounds in other smaller but identifiable ways. I remind the Premier of the millions spent on Minaki Lodge. I remind the Premier of the millions spent on the South Cayuga purchase, for which that town site will never see the light of a town. I remind the Premier, through the Speaker, of what was revealed around the OHIP billings to private labs and around, indeed, the administration of that system in general. I remind the Premier of the home buyer grant, yet to be accentuated week after week and month after month in this Legislature. I remind the Premier of the controversy around whether or not the exemption should have been granted to Ronto.

I remind the Premier, in other words, that there are individual identifiable examples, some of them mounting into the millions of dollars—South Cayuga amounting to \$30 million—which are absolutely indefensible in the context of good economic management. Yet they are at the feet of the Conservative government. So on the one hand, the government's forecasting is off—

Hon. Mr. Davis: You were going to land-bank the whole province a few years ago.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, dear! Is the Premier going to go back to silliness?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes.

Mr. Lewis: Well, by all means do.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Some people have never left it.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: That happens to me often, too—

Hon. Mr. Davis: You've never left it.

Mr. Lewis: —and it's very aggravating, particularly when it speaks the truth involuntarily.

Mr. Makarchuk: You didn't come out that well on that one, Bill.

Mr. Lewis: I want to remind the Premier that there is yet another example of this mythology evaporating over time: his uncritical acceptance of the Anti-Inflation Board guidelines. He expressed occasional reservations but, boy oh boy, did he leap in quickly to endorse it, just as quickly as the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) leaped in to endorse Donald S. Macdonald.

Mr. Reid: And who voted with you on it?

Mr. Lewis: As a matter of fact, was it Sinclair Stevens my colleague from York South heard today saying that Donald S. Macdonald should resign for the budget he brought in. If he brought in that kind of balance sheet as president of a private corporation, they'd boot him out of office. But one never expected federal Tories and provincial Tories to see alike on such matters, I suppose.

Mr. MacDonald: They're only fundamental.

Mr. Lewis: That's why you're here and Joe Clark is there. I understand that. I recognize it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's why you're here and Dave Barrett is back where he is.

Mr. Lewis: Don't malign—my goodness, you're going far afield; nationalizing land in Ontario, Dave Barrett in British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Same party philosophy.

Mr. Lewis: Is there nothing else you can invoke? Cuba, Czechoslovakia? Surely there are no limits to your horizons.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There's a slight difference.

Mr. Lewis: All right. Let me remind the Premier that although he expresses the occasional caveat about the Anti-Inflation Board, he's betwixt and between as much as the federal government is about what happens next, having imposed this phenomenon upon the people. But even though the Premier has exercised some restraints in the public sector, and I will have more to say about that shortly, he has never been able to bring himself, even now, to take a look at prices and profits. Indeed, one of the interesting aspects of the government's inability to manage the economy is the way in which it has allowed a certain number of prices and rates to increase unconscionably while the controls programme is in place.

Mr. MacDonald: Milk prices, for example.

Mr. Lewis: Ah, thank you very much. I'll accept any assistance that will come to me from my colleague. Milk prices, for example, said the member for York South. Does the Premier recall that his own government has done a study which indicated that the retail price to the consumer was illegitimately set for two years in succession? And they are talking about increasing milk prices yet again. Did we hear a twitch—we never will hear a twitch from the Minister of Agriculture and

Food or a roar from that minister when it emerged that milk prices might go up again? Not a chance.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You don't hear twitches; you see them.

Mr. MacDonald: When the minister is here, I'll see them.

Mr. Lewis: When you come right down to it, when it comes to the crunch, the government simply doesn't intervene.

Hon. W. Newman: You would intervene in everything.

Mr. Lewis: May I also recall to you that when John Clement was Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, when that portfolio was inhabited by a partisan rather than an antagonist, he did a study of 16 major food retailers, pointing out that the prices that were charged were frequently illegitimate. The government has had it all arrayed before it but in the question of food prices, during the course of controls, it has never been willing to intervene to protect the consumers or to protect the farmers. The government's only interest is to protect the middleman. That's whom they have protected.

Hon. W. Newman: Wait a minute. In Quebec the farmers—

Mr. Lewis: I think that's true. I believe that to be true.

Hon. W. Newman: That's not true.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, may I point out to you how these Tories managed the economy in terms of energy prices? They were begged by this party to smooth the Hydro rate increase over a period of time so that people didn't have to accept 25, 26 or 27 per cent rate increases capriciously, unexpectedly, in given years. They found it impossible, absolutely impossible.

Now that the Treasurer is back, the Premier may leave. I understand—

Hon. Mr. Davis: We're just sort of alternating a bit. It takes two of us to handle you at any time.

Mr. Lewis: No, I don't think that's true, but I am prepared to admit that they are indistinguishable one from the other.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will be back.

Mr. Lewis: I say that affectionately. I mean simply in girth if nothing more.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have been working very hard.

Mr. MacDonald: That is not below the belt; it is on the belt.

Hon. Mr. Davis: On you—it's below.

Mr. Lewis: Exactly. On matters of food and on matters of energy costs, there has been absolutely no wish on the part of the Treasurer or the government to protect people in the province of Ontario. On the question of housing costs, it is engaged in exactly the same activity, exactly the same activity. As a matter of fact, the Minister of Housing read a statement today before the orders of the day, announcing fulsomely that of course the government is going to make a profit on the sale of the land. Well, land is the single most extravagant component, the one that has been going up most speculatively over the last several years—in the cost of a house. If you have 20,000 to 22,000 acres of publicly-held land all over the province of Ontario, why in God's name not build upon it and reduce the price of the house to the buyer by virtue of reducing the price of the land?

Now, it is my opportunity to correct what the minister said because when I talked about the first buyer, I was talking, of course, about the province—not about an individual home purchaser. It seems to me that the province should keep the price down. I don't understand the government's whole programme. But I speak again to its inability to keep prices under check, yet at the same time allegedly supporting the wage and price control programme.

It also speaks to property taxes. May I say a word about property taxes? It speaks to procrastination, to delay, to a refusal to act upon suggested reforms, to the apparent acceptance of many of the preposterous propositions in the Blair commission and those propositions from government which preceded it. Again, we will have much more to say on the budget when we respond. I simply point out that whether it's food or energy, housing or land, property taxes or whatever, the government supports the AIB guidelines on the one hand and, on the other, does nothing as a government to manage the economy. And that speaks volumes to us in this caucus, because it shows that the mythology around the Conservatives is mythology indeed.

That brings me to the fourth point I want to make: Whenever the economy of Ontario needed stimulation in the minds of

this government, whenever it felt that jobs were required or that investment had to be increased or that something had to be done to get this economy going again, it turned to its favoured, absolutely single-minded preoccupation—a tax rebate of one kind or another to the corporate sector. That is its fine tuning of the economy, a blunt-edged instrument used again and again in successive budgets from 1971 through, I dare say, to 1977.

It never seems to understand that there has to be a multiplicity of economic factors altered, changed and implemented, when dealing with the kind of stimulation which is allegedly required. And even when the government had conclusive evidence that additional jobs were not being created, even when it had conclusive evidence that the tax rebate wasn't really working, it persisted in its application.

And what's the bitter irony? The bitter irony is that in 1977 we are in worse shape economically than we were when the government first happened on the idea in 1971. By the end of this fiscal year, it will have budgeted for tax rebates equalling \$830 million to the corporate sector. And for what? We have never been able to get from the government the number of jobs created.

An hon. member: None.

Mr. Lewis: You have always denied—

Mr. MacDonald: John White said none and he was right.

Mr. Lewis: John White admitted there were no jobs created but we have never been able to get that from this Treasurer.

Mr. Deans: You eliminated jobs, in fact.

Mr. Lewis: I would be glad to receive a lesson in elementary economics from the Treasurer whenever he wants to give it to me. More paradoxical is the fact that the government kept on providing tax rebates to the corporate sector for the purchase of machinery and equipment when there was significant unused capacity in the manufacturing sector throughout. How, in God's name, does that make economic sense in Ontario to provide that kind of fillip to the corporate sector in precisely the area where they are unable to use it?

[4:45]

Do you know, Mr. Speaker, in 1971 when they began this proposal there was already unused plant capacity of 10 per cent to 15 per cent in the province of Ontario, with the

provincial Treasurer sitting idly by? Perhaps I can read into the record the percentage of capacity utilization in the manufacturing sector by a number of major groups for the fourth quarter of 1976.

In wood it's running at 75 per cent; in furniture and fixtures at 70 per cent; in printing at 79 per cent; in primary metals at 65 per cent; in metal fabricating at 80 per cent; in machinery at 86 per cent; in electrical products at 79 per cent; in non-metallic mineral products at 73 per cent; in chemical and chemical products at 82 per cent.

If you take all the major sectors of the manufacturing area by group you find we're running at a use capacity of 79.43 per cent. That is, to echo the words of my colleague from Downsview, we've got over 20 per cent of unused capacity across the country, and it is generally conceded that those figures are directly transferable to the central manufacturing province, such as this one. It makes no sense.

It makes no sense when our exports are down as well. And I want to remind the House of the response of many of the corporate people to the Donald S. Macdonald budget. A number of them said, what use further tax rebates because we've got unused capacity? A number of them also said, why in the devil didn't they provide a significant tax cut—obviously these were people in the service and retail trades—because that's what we require to stimulate our sector? Surely, therefore, that significant tax cut must be part of the provincial Treasurer's next budget, using some of the money he has so inappropriately deployed for the corporate sector. Yet his response to Donald S. Macdonald shows otherwise.

Can I remind the Treasurer of his clairvoyant words on Friday morning last? "These are not happy times for the economy," he said. "Some of our citizens are experiencing real hardship and this budget does not put an immediate end to any of their problems. Nevertheless, I am encouraged that this is an honest budget. Mr. Macdonald has recognized the two primary concerns of unemployment and inflation and his budget concentrates on long-term performance to meet both challenges, rather than short-term tradeoffs."

That is a devastating statement for Ontario, and it's terribly disappointing because the problem has been long-term for a long time. Yet this government, with its straitjacketed view of economic management, cannot seem to adapt. You're always good at curtailing the public sector. You're always good at trumpeting the private sector, you invariably

use tax rebates as a cure-all, but you're not managing the economy well. Your statement on Ontario finances was wrong. Your support for the AIB and your refusal to curtail prices was wrong. The evidence of mismanagement in a number of identifiable areas is unacceptable, and in the crucial matter of the tax rebate you have clearly made an error.

Can I put it simply this way, Mr. Speaker? This Treasurer and those around him are terribly fundamentalist people. They're far more dogmatic in their economic approach than the New Democratic Party will ever be. They're stale, they're narrow, they lack common sense. It is very, very difficult for any of us to appreciate why they rely so entirely on one economic strategy when it has led to indefensible unemployment—or at least it has existed alongside indefensible unemployment in this province.

The government has said very often that we are the doctrinaire people. Utter balderdash! If ever there was a government of fundamentalists, it lies over there. Its mismanagement of the economy is proof of it. I can't imagine any less creativity, flexibility than the government has displayed. As a matter of fact, if I can coin a phrase, this Treasurer and the government of Ontario suffer from what might be called an almost terminal scrawniness of the imagination.

Now I suppose, in a way, that it was all bad enough before, but now that jobs have become so fundamental, so central to the Ontario economy, it becomes dispiriting and demoralizing. Three hundred and sixteen thousand people unemployed in February of 1977—that's quite a testament to the provincial Treasurer. Can I read the unemployment rates into the record, Mr. Speaker, lest members of the House haven't seen them? In eastern Ontario in February 1977 the rate was at nine per cent. In Peterborough-Haliburton, 9.8 per cent. In Toronto, 6.9 per cent. In Hamilton peninsula, 8.7 per cent. In southwestern Ontario, London-based, 8.9 per cent. Southwestern Ontario, Windsor-based, 9.4 per cent. Southwestern Ontario, Kitchener-based, 6.3 per cent. Georgian Bay-Lake Huron-Barrie, 10.4 per cent. Northwestern Ontario, 7.2 per cent. Northeastern Ontario, 9.3 per cent. Three hundred and sixteen thousand people unemployed.

Does the Treasurer remember the budget of 1971? Can I quote his words back at him? I quote:

"Low-income workers have been particularly hard hit, as have young people and students who find themselves unable to enter

the labour force in ways which fully utilize their abilities and training. During this period of forced slowdown, large numbers of older employees have lost their jobs and many of them will find it difficult, if not impossible, to secure equivalent positions when the economy ultimately recovers.

"The real cost of unemployment to these people has been enormous, not just in terms of lost incomes but also in terms of human dignity and family security. In addition, there has been a heavy cost to the community at large in lost output and weakened confidence."

That was in the budget of 1971. What happened to those words by 1977?

Remember John White and the budget of 1973? He says, and I quote: "Let me repeat, however, the message of my predecessor, who stated that any unemployment figure in excess of three per cent is unacceptable to this government."

An hon. member: Well, well.

Mr. Lewis: We'll never see three per cent again, so long as the Tories are in power, because now we have a government which is willing to accept eight per cent. I know it's a difficult proposition to deal with unless one sort of sees it visually in human terms, but imagine accepting as an economic premise in Ontario at least 316,000 people out of work for a continuing period of time. That's not this month's figure. There was a time when that would have turfed a government right out of office.

Mr. Deans: It will.

Mr. Lewis: And so, of course, it should turf this government and may yet do so, if it ever brings itself to facing the electorate.

I might say that a goodly number of people in my caucus have visited Manpower offices. They see them in their own constituencies. They talk about the individual ruination in families. One cannot deal in this society with that kind of unemployment rate. But it persists. It continues.

As I was driving to the Legislature today, I passed Shaftesbury and Yonge where they are putting up some kind of apartment hotel or whatever, and they are advertising on a billboard for workers. They have 160 to 200 jobs available. By noon they already had 500 applications, and the applicants were lined up down Shaftesbury and all the way along Yonge.

This is 1977, for God's sake. This isn't depression psychology. There is utterly no

reason in the world why this government, were it able to manage the economy a little more creatively, there is utterly no reason in the world why it couldn't step in and revive the confidence that it finds so elusive. But in its own straitjacketed persistence, it relies on one avenue alone—the tax rebate to corporations.

So obviously we would be in favour of a fairly major tax cut. As a matter of fact, if those tax cuts to low- and low-middle-income groups had been exercised over the last two or three years, rather than these rebates which show little point, we probably would be a lot better off than we are today.

But we go further than that. What we're saying to this government in no uncertain terms, what we're asking, urging, proposing is simply this: Let the government be seen to be actively, urgently involved, region after region, creating jobs, saving existing jobs, taking equity positions, encouraging the private sector, restoring confidence, not by abstract theories, but by showing the world that we can make a significant dent on unemployment and that we can do it while still managing the economy in terms of inflationary pressures. Let the government use the existing funds it has. It has already budgeted for \$160 million a year, for heaven's sake. It isn't as though it had to raid the Treasury further, although additional funds for direct investment would be a perfectly legitimate decision. Let it make its variety enormous and put life and enthusiasm back into the economy.

Let me put to the provincial Treasurer, if I may, a number of concrete examples. Let me not talk in abstracts. Let me tell him exactly what we mean. I'm just going to recite them at him pell-mell in the context of everything that's gone before in this argument.

Number one: Take the example of Collingwood. Several hundred workers are going to be laid off in that Ontario shipbuilding community within the next several weeks. By the end of August 1977 there may be 1,000 people laid off. It is facile and inexcusable to consider Collingwood a federal shipbuilding responsibility. When I was in Collingwood some number of months ago, seeing the place and trying to understand what the unemployment hazards were and why there was so much anxiety—and the Premier, I know, has been involved via back-benchers and others—one of the things that struck me, small but compelling, was the wish on the part of the company to extend its dry-docking facilities from 750 feet to 1,000 feet in order to allow it to tender on a number of ships it couldn't otherwise build.

No one is asking the government to give a subsidy to the shipbuilding industry. All we're saying is, here is an identifiable role for the provincial government to have gone in there, helped them with their expansion to 1,000 feet and helped them therefore gain additional contracts. It never occurred to the government to do so. As a result, the unemployment in Collingwood is as layable at this government's feet as it is anywhere else.

Number two: Take Timmins in the riding of my colleague from Cochrane South. Timmins now has 4,700 people on the role of the Manpower offices, although that takes in an area beyond Timmins itself. But it hasn't been this high in 20 years. Timmins is suffering from the gold mining decline. They've lost 730 jobs over the last two years in the various gold mines. I guess Texasgulf is not now hiring at the moment, although it has expansion plans for the future. The Timmins community is in serious economic hardship.

I throw the government's mind back to July 1975. The Treasurer stands in the Legislature and says; "We are going to build a consolidated government structure in Timmins. We have apportioned the funds for it already." It's April 1977. Where's the government structure? It's never been built. The people in Timmins have never seen it.

Mr. Ferrier: They haven't turned the sod.

Mr. Lewis: They haven't turned the sod; they haven't let the tender. Why, when the government has a community which has such heavy unemployment can it not at least meet a building project to which it is committed?

Why not do more than that? Why not take a look at the gold mining situation in a place like Timmins? Finally, the value is going up on the international markets. Finally, the government has from the gold-mining companies themselves—the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Maack) shakes his head. He's shaking to a colleague, but I'd prefer to use it for my purposes. He agrees gold is up in price again on the international market. He knows, as few others know, that the International Monetary Fund has now looked as though it will stabilize the sale of gold. He knows because he has something to do with Natural Resources, doesn't he?

Mr. Maack: Don't carry this too far.

Mr. Lewis: He used to have. He used to know that one of the major gold-mining companies, Pamour, has presented a piece of material to the Minister of Natural Resources and to the Treasurer demonstrating the kinds of gains and jobs which could be

available in the gold-mining sector if only it had some confidence and economic support.

[5:00]

Is equity such anathema to those people opposite? Is it not possible to give a community continuity and economic resilience by stepping in at the moment when a small public, private venture would guarantee it long-term security? What is wrong with the Tories? They can't extend a dry dock in Collingwood. They can't build a government building in Timmins. They can't provide equity for gold mines.

Let me ask them something else: What about Matachewan? My colleague from Timiskaming (Mr. Bain) has certainly raised it with the Premier and the former Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier). So have I. There is a company, United Asbestos, which went through a terribly difficult time. I think it is generally agreed by those who have looked at it, including the Mercantile Bank, I suspect including the government itself, that the problems of United Asbestos are very deep. They go back to management, they go back to a capital inflationary spiral which the company did not anticipate. But the place is relatively safe; safer than most asbestos environments in Ontario. The machinery is now installed and it could probably go to 100 per cent production.

And the Tories are dealing with Kirkland Lake. Do they remember Kokotow Lumber—down the drain 18 months ago—no jobs? Notice Ontario Dynamics, a little manufacturing plant in Kirkland Lake—down the drain—no jobs. Now we have 275 jobs at a viable operation, and they sit there in that absolutely intractable rigidity and say, "We will not intervene in the market place." Why do they give rebates of \$160 million to private companies? Why don't they take an equity for the province of Ontario in certain of the industrial or resource sectors in order that the jobs be fulfilled?

I spoke to the president of the Mercantile Bank. My colleague spoke to the vice-president of the Mercantile Bank. This government has been in touch with the bankers, the people who hold the notes. The Premier knows that if the government showed some confidence in Matachewan that place could reopen and the people would go back to work. There seems to be a good international market. That is a concrete job-saving proposition, just as there are other concrete job-creating propositions.

Why can't the Tories do it? Why can't they bring themselves to do it? Why can't

they flood out from this place with sirens ringing, establishing a number of job situations all across Ontario to show that they are serious about it? What about the east end of Metropolitan Toronto? What about light rail transit for Scarborough? They have the money apportioned. They have shown some evidence of good faith. What is it about this government that it can't step in and say, "We want that light rail transit system built. It is (a) legitimate and (b) will provide jobs and we will move heaven and earth to get it done."

They move with alacrity and with support from us when they stop the Spadina expressway. It doesn't take them long to do. They move with alacrity and support from us when they stop the Pickering airport. It doesn't take them long to do. Why can't they move with the same feeling in job-creating areas which are concrete and identifiable? Do they know that the building of that Scarborough light rail transit will create 1,325 man-years of work? That will be several hundred construction workers in Metropolitan Toronto employed for two, three or four years. This isn't a LIP project; this is real. And they can't get themselves to do it.

Can I remind them about construction in Metropolitan Toronto? Bricklayers; the rate of unemployment is 29.5 per cent. Carpenters, it is 28.7 per cent. Electrical workers, it is 23.1 per cent. Ironworkers, it is 24.5 per cent. Labourers, it is 70 per cent. Five thousand, five hundred and ninety-nine labourers unemployed as of April 1 out of 8,000 workers. Painters, 13.8 per cent. Plumbers and steamfitters, 17.3 per cent. Sheet-metal workers, 22.9 per cent. You know as I know, Mr. Speaker, that these are terribly vulnerable people, these are largely immigrant people, people who need jobs more than most, people for whom life is perilous at all times in the adjustment to a new society and a new economy. The government has a project. Why the devil can't it rouse itself to do it?

Let me point to another. What about the whole question of environmental and pollution control measures to create jobs? There is an enormous job benefit inherent for eastern and northern Ontario, and this is totally the private sector. We don't have to spend a penny of government money. And does the government know how to do it? It does it simply by enforcing the environmental regulations which the Minister of the Environment allows the companies to flout and prolong at will. The Premier, when we raised the question of the pulp and paper com-

panies and matters of environmental control and water management, said we wanted to close down the plants. And then he learned from the Minister of the Environment alone, who is on record in Hansard in an exchange with my colleague from Durham West, that we wouldn't lose a single job, that it's all economically possible, that it's all there, if only they would clean up.

Now we learn that if we insist that the companies clean up, there are more economic and job benefits than we could have imagined, because there has now come to light a study called "Benefits from Industrial Production Pollution Abatement Equipment for the Pulp and Paper Industry," dated January 1975—a study right across Canada showing that if our environmental standards were met it would require from the private sector \$740 million of legitimate expenditure which, like the Minister of the Environment's study, it shows they can afford—much of which would come into Ontario.

Do the members know how much? Shall I tell them how much? Sixteen thousand, four hundred and thirteen man-years of work—4,000 in manufacturing, 5,000 in construction, 6,000 in services. Even if we only took 4,000 to 5,000 workers we would keep them employed for up to four years at an important environmental and economic undertaking which everybody applauds, which should be undertaken by the private sector, and which would provide jobs all over the province.

We have pulp and paper mills, 37 of them, everywhere in the province of Ontario, particularly the east and the north. Why isn't it possible for the people opposite to undertake that kind of thing?

But let me go further, Mr. Speaker, while we are speaking of that. We managed to lay our hands upon a draft copy of Design for Development from the Ministry of Natural Resources submitted to TEIGA very recently. I want to read a paragraph from it because it speaks to exactly the kind of proposition this party is making:

"A number of byproducts can be recovered from pulp mill wastes, thus reducing pollution and providing a base for further chemical processing. Quantities of crude tall oil and turpentine already are being recovered from the spent liquors, but a significant proportion of this is exported without further refining into such products as tall oil, fatty acids, resins or other derivatives. A number of byproducts such as lignosulfonates, sugar and minerals can also be recovered from sulphite mill spent liquors.

"Other pulp mill wastes have byproduct uses as well, for which new applications and markets are developing. There is some potential for development of a wood-based chemical industry in this region. This related secondary manufacturing substantially increases the number of employment opportunities and the product dollar value added over that derived from primary producing operations. The appropriate provincial ministry should carry out immediate investigations to harness this potential."

So where is the potential? Where is the harnessing of that potential for northwestern Ontario?

Don't talk to us about the Reed Paper company, five, 10, 15, 20 years down the road. Talk to us about secondary manufacturing for northern Ontario today, now, because it's today.

Mr. Wildman: What about Blind River?

Mr. Lewis: I'm coming to Blind River. The support I'm getting is superb. The prompting is dead on. That's my next subject. Everywhere you turn in this province there are job-creating possibilities if the government weren't so terminally scrawny. The Minister of Culture and Recreation should not take it personally, although I will admit the description has a certain unerring glance.

I just want to remind the government—whether it's Collingwood, whether it's Timmins, whether it's Matachewan, whether it's Scarborough, whether it's communities with pulp and paper mills, whether it's Design for Development northwestern Ontario—it has projects, private and public, crying out to create jobs. And the government can't undertake it.

Well, how about looking at the possibility of creating new industries as well in this time of high unemployment? Why not look at that seriously? And when the government thinks about that, and I can't go into it at great lengths—my colleague from Durham East I hope will do so at some point in this session and perhaps my colleague from Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr) as well—why not look at energy?

The government talked about Ontario Hydro; the Premier interjected about Ontario Hydro. There's no invidious contradiction with Ontario Hydro. The problem with Ontario Hydro and energy in the province of Ontario is that those beggars monopolize everything. They are monolithic to a point where one can't even make a dent on them. They have tied us into a nuclear option which may or may not be valid in itself—that we do

not yet know—but sure as the devil, it precludes effectively the development of all kinds of other alternatives. So we limp along in solar, and we limp along in wind energy and we never undertake anything seriously. They want \$25 billion by 1985. If the government can refer one, two or three per cent of that, think of the job creating possibilities.

Let me put to the Minister of Energy one particular aspect of that. Let me put to him the aspect of methanol as a job-creating potential, as an alternative fuel source in the province of Ontario and as one of the most exciting and imaginative experiments we might undertake, if anybody over there had the imagination or the wit to do it. I simply want to point out that methanol of course is not meant to be a substitute for electricity, but it can by way of additive be a significant substitute for gasoline and diesel fuel. As we know, as we've heard from the Minister of Energy just Friday morning, we have so much of a problem in the amount of money we're paying for oil that it would be nice to begin to develop some alternative supplies.

The methanol process, while not yet economic, has some clear possibilities, and again one doesn't understand why the government can't be flexible or imaginative enough to embrace it. For example, the government could have three prototype plants in this province. One would be based on waste wood from current mill operations from full tree operations. I don't have to go into all the details and definitions, but that is possible adjacent to one of the current mill operations, let's say, at Kapuskasing.

The government could also have a mill, a methanol plant, tied to a tree-farming project for methanol production. I come back to Blind River. What a beautiful place to have a prototype to instill confidence in the economy again, to produce a fuel which more and more is accepted as a viable possibility, if only a government will come to grips with it. I don't want to depreciate the possibilities around Blind River for a long-term, land regeneration programme, but in the short term, given the amount of land we need for tree farming for the production of methanol, there is an appropriate place, or somewhere in eastern Ontario.

Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that for roughly 4,775 square miles—that's about three million acres—we could provide 15 per cent of the total gasoline and diesel fuel requirements of this province in the year 1985?

I assume the House leader also knows that the Ministry of Natural Resources has experimented with poplar plots in eastern Ontario

which have achieved a work production rate of 320 cubic feet per year, which is 13 times the present growth rate. Yes, I know the Minister of Culture and Recreation has personally investigated them.

Mr. Moffatt: He even gave them a Wintario grant.

Mr. Lewis: Probably that's true. What I'm pointing out to the government then is that when it talks about 19,000 square miles for the Reed Paper company, 4,000 square miles doesn't seem very much, does it? When the Minister of Agriculture and Food talks about 12 million acres of class 6 and 7 land available for eventual agricultural use, three million acres doesn't seem like very much, does it?

The government could have a tree-farming operation as a prototype in a place like Blind River and bring life back to that community and create a great many jobs. It could also do it from solid waste in around the Metro Toronto region and have a prototype plant here, as the Minister of the Environment nods his head. You people are so bullishly frustrating—if the minister will forgive me for using an unlovely adjective to describe such a demure creature as himself. I don't understand why he sits there—

[5:15]

Interjection.

Mr. Lewis: —in constant agreement, but can never initiate anything. We produce about two million tons of waste now in the Metro region—annually. Four hundred thousand of it will be going to the Watts from Waste programme. There will be enough remaining to create a fairly major methanol plant—and methanol is a legitimate fuel in this part of the province.

All of this isn't hearsay, because fortunately people are at work on it. There is now at the federal level—done for the Ministry of the Environment—a report entitled *The Economic Prefeasibility Study: Large-Scale Methanol Fuel Production from Surplus Canadian Forest Biomass*. And there is Ontario's paper which the minister is acquainted with: *Methanol in Ontario, a Preliminary Report*, done by two University of Toronto professors, Donald MacKay and Russell Sutherland, for the Ministry of Energy.

So, finally we're getting the documentation. Where is the creative verve? Why the failure of imagination? You could provide a prototype in at least two other parts of the

province and, above all, you could provide jobs.

And what about measures to refine and process more of our minerals in Ontario as a way of maintaining jobs? Mr. Speaker, you have probably looked at the list of exemptions given to the mining companies of the province of Ontario for processing and refining abroad. I have 34 such exemptions updated to March, 1977. Some of them are very, very large. Falconbridge, for example, has an exemption of 85 million pounds of nickel per year. What is the reason given? Let me tell you—"Inadequate further processing capacity exists in Canada; and funds for construction are not available at this time." My colleagues in the Sudbury basin haven't noticed the penurious state of Falconbridge—certainly not when they deal with Norway.

There are other conventional reasons given in this report. One of the most frequently given is this: "No further processing facilities exist in Canada and the benefits obtainable appear to be too low in relation to costs to justify construction." Who makes the judgement? The Ministry of Natural Resources makes the judgement? "Appear to be too low"? I hope it is not unkind of me to say that the Ministry of Natural Resources has had such an unhealthy, supportive, and often lackey relationship with the mining sector, that they should not be making judgements on whether or not refining and processing is done abroad. It should not be permitted.

We are exporting jobs. We're exporting thousands of jobs, many of them, I expect, illegitimately. And again, all of these exemptions should be subject to public scrutiny. The government might have a select committee of this Legislature take a look at some of those exemptions, because I'd like to know how the Ministry of Natural Resources arrives at its conclusion as to whether or not it is apparently valuable to have the processing facility here.

Mr. Laughren: In the Albany Club.

Mr. Lewis: In the Albany Club? I don't know. But I do know that it is a highly suspect process, given the actors in the play—on other matters—up until now.

Let me remind the House about servicing of land in southern Ontario to get housing directed to land of lesser value—something the government keeps on talking about. When the government builds its pipe, it builds it through the York and Durham regions rather than Niagara, and it uses up the

best agricultural land rather than use the money to create real jobs in southern Niagara where it requires servicing to deflect the population growth. I needn't elaborate on housing.

Look at services to people. We've been talking about services to people in this caucus until we couldn't stand the sound of the repetition. And suddenly, in this Throne Speech, the government discovers services to people in the context of using youth unemployment to deal with the aged. Well, what an amazing revelation. Why can't they expand that to services to people in corrections, in mental health, in retardation, in a number of other identifiable social service needs? They've got plenty of surveys and plenty of material to do the job.

In other words, all over this province there is example after example of job-creating possibilities. The government could expand these further by stepping into vulnerable communities such as Kitchener, where Electrohme is losing its electronic parts business because of tariff problems, or Cornwall, where a textile mill is losing the same way because of tariff problems. The government could show verve and imagination. They could create thousands of jobs in Ontario. The first part is the direct tax cut, but then the government should go to those communities which are under pressure, losing jobs or needing jobs, and to the industries that will bear fruit—a Collingwood, a Timmins, a Matachewan, a Kirkland Lake, pulp and paper mills, northwestern development, the gold mining industry, Scarborough light rail transit, construction workers in Metropolitan Toronto, methanol prototypes here and there in Ontario, servicing of land in southern Ontario communities. One area after another is open to the government, and if they had any imagination in job creation at all they would have the jobs as well.

I simply want to say to the hon. minister opposite that this is a theme, an issue, a focus for us which we shall not relinquish over the next number of months; and others will obviously share it, because I think it is shared generally by the opposition in Ontario.

Clearly, Donald S. Macdonald's project is a death knell to job creation. Clearly, Darcy McKeough is travelling down the same road, and it is utterly and unacceptably wrong to maintain a persistent level of 316,000 unemployed in this province when the job-creating possibilities stare the government in the face everywhere and its crazy, narrow, stale, conventional, traditional views of managing the economy do not permit it to inter-

vene in a way which is helpful to Ontario. We deplore it.

The mismanagement in the field of jobs is but one kind of mismanagement of the economy of which this government is guilty. There is the mismanagement of the entire resource sector. At times, outside and inside the Legislature we have dealt with our water resources. We have dealt with our mining resources. The entry of the former Minister of Natural Resources, as I come to mining resources—or the Secretary of the North or whatever his job appellation is—

Mr. S. Smith: Governor of Northern Ontario!

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You will be sorry. Be careful what you say.

Mr. Lewis: Is that not fair? I'm not sure. The northern tail on the cabinet dog? How do you say it?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I just came back from Sudbury.

Mr. Lewis: Well, the fact of the matter is that when one speaks of mining in this context, one wonders what the government is going to do. I've listened to the leader of the Liberal Party ask questions in this area on occasion around prospecting and the opening of new mines. It is interesting that we've come to 1977 and there are no new mines opening and no new mines in prospect. The amount that is invested per year is declining steadily; it was at an average of \$23 million from 1967 to 1971, but it's now at an average of \$15 million from 1972 to 1976.

Does the former Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier), who is about to become the Minister of Northern Affairs, remember his proposal to bring in a Crown corporation for exploration? Does he remember saying that in 1974? He repeated it again that year and again the next year, and then he jettisoned it at the end of 1975. If we had a Crown corporation in place now for exploration and development in the mining sector, we might not be in such difficulty. As a matter of fact, if that minister had accepted a proposal put to him by the New Democratic Party a number of years ago to set up a development fund for northern Ontario based on 50 per cent of the mines profits tax, we might not be in this particular jackpot today; but none of that was done. They put forth a proposal; they abandoned it, they pulled it back. And as a result we are in terrible difficulty in our mining sector.

So we are in difficulty in water. We are in difficulty in mining. We are obviously in difficulty with our forests; and boy oh boy, are we in continuing difficulty with agricultural land for which there is still not a land-use plan adequate to provide legislative protection in the province of Ontario.

The time speeds. I have dealt with the major matter I wanted to deal with, and that was jobs, but I want to say something about agricultural land as I pull natural resources together. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, through you to the Premier and to the House leader, that all of the guidelines in the world will still not protect those lands which are under pressure in the province of Ontario.

I notice that the Minister of Agriculture and Food last week went to the Bureau of Municipal Research and made a speech in which he said that in Niagara the government had saved 3,000 acres from urban expansion; 1,800 acres of tender fruit land and 1,200 acres of vineyards. Can we believe that? I mean it is just not credible that a minister of the Crown should make that kind of statement when he knows that it isn't valid.

With greatest respect, it isn't valid. What really happened in Niagara is that there weren't 7,000 acres under pressure, there were 8,000; and that, in fact, of grape and fruit land, the government saved only 1,780 acres in the Niagara region; 1,780 acres. I have an internal document from the regional planners of Niagara which shows, just so that it's a matter of interest, that there were 860 acres of tender fruit saved, 820 acres of grapes, 90 acres of good general, 10 acres of potential development of other land; totalling 1,780 acres. In other words, they gave away 5,000 and kept 1,780 to protect, and they did it on the day that they announced their guidelines.

Since then, the population projections for the Niagara region have dropped by another 67,000, according to the report put out by Peter Barnard Associates to the Minister of Housing. Why are they not saving all the land in Niagara when the population data we now have, since their announcements, indicate they don't have to alienate any of it?

Now whether it was Niagara or whether it is the dismal saga of Haldimand-Norfolk—let little be said about that in this Legislature, it is embarrassing enough for the government—or whether it's the landfill site proposed for the Halton region for 500 acres of prime agricultural land, all of that goes down the drain. Their guidelines mean nothing.

There are 500 acres of agricultural land in the middle of Halton, class 1, jointly owned

by Burlington and Oakville; in both local official plans zoned agricultural; and the regional municipality is going to use it for a landfill site. So where are their guidelines now? Where are their guidelines now?

Where were they in Niagara? Where were they in Haldimand-Norfolk? Where are they in Halton? Where are they on the Niagara Escarpment?

Mr. Speaker, may I say to the Premier we have been doing some work on the Niagara Escarpment, sufficient that this delicious little memo came out from the Escarpment Commission on March 7, 1977: "To development control staff from C. A. Louis, manager, development control:

"In future, all requests for information from any of the opposition parties—e.g., Frank Lewinberg, NDP research—should be directed to Carolyn Jamieson, our information officer. By channelling such inquiries through Carolyn, we will be able to monitor the same more closely. At the same time, all information will be co-ordinated to provide complete, up-to-date and accurate responses."

Needless to say, since the memo, the responses have not been quite so immediately forthcoming as in the time prior to the memo.

Mr. MacDonald: Freedom of information.

Hon. Mr. Davis: They probably just want to be accurate.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, I'm sure they want to be accurate.

[5:30]

Mr. MacDonald: They were too accurate before.

Mr. Lewis: The government wouldn't want to bring in a freedom of information Act which could make it sure; let's wait a year or two while the escarpment disappears—

Hon. Mr. Davis: We just want to protect a little privacy when we do it—like the member from High Park.

Mr. Lewis: I think I'm beginning to warm to this. The fact of the matter is—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition has the floor.

Mr. Lewis: Thank you. I just remind members that the escarpment, which John Robarts moved to protect 10 years ago last month; 10 years ago—and then the Gertler report and then the special task force and then the

Niagara Escarpment Commission—and we still don't have a plan for the escarpment. And in the very—

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's not quite right; look at the great town of Caledon.

Mr. MacDonald: You'll have your speech later; don't interrupt.

Mr. Lewis: In the very near future we will be able to document for you, Mr. Speaker, how the commission staff and the commission itself, have in certain crucial urban growth developments, recommended strongly against acceptance by this government, as a result of the need to protect agricultural land and other environmental and planning protections, and this government has systematically overruled the submissions—well we will see; I'll give chapter and verse.

Why do you think they boxed us out of getting the material from the commission, Mr. Speaker? I may say that what it shows is that, again, the government's guidelines are not worth the paper they're written on. All of which comes back to the whole theme which I am trying to put together.

Mr. MacDonald: Ask Eric Winkler.

Mr. S. Smith: Six hundred acres in Milton and a parkway belt.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition please.

Mr. Lewis: All of which puts together what I wanted to convey to you, that the conventional mythology about the Tories being good managers of the economy in Ontario does not stand up to scrutiny. It doesn't stand up to scrutiny in areas of financial prophecy, doesn't stand up to scrutiny in areas of job creation, doesn't stand up in areas of natural resource management.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Stephen, you are reaching today; and you know you are reaching.

Mr. Lewis: I may say to the Premier, through the Speaker, he is in serious difficulty around the management of Ontario economy. It is his Achilles heel and I suspect one day it will bring him down.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It may bring us down, but it won't bring you up.

Mr. MacDonald: Bring him to order, Mr. Speaker. Don't give the floor back to the Opposition Leader, he's got it; just bring the Premier to order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition will continue his remarks.

Mr. Lewis: I don't seek distractions as often as the Premier does when speaking. I like to rely on the material I have at hand rather than the repartee I can evoke.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You don't have to seek them.

Mr. Lewis: If you will allow me merely to deal with two final matters, I'll move the amendment. They're brief.

Just as there is the whole range of the economy and natural resources, and I'm glad the Minister of Labour is back, there are some simple matters of human resources. I think, as a matter of fact, the government isolated that in its own Throne Speech on page 29 where there is reference to the balance of natural and human resources in the province of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, I want to convey to the Premier the really desperate need in Ontario, about which we in this caucus feel most strongly to do something about the Workmen's Compensation Board. As we look at that perilous balance of the natural endowments and the human realities, I want to point out to the Premier, respectfully, through the Speaker, that management is unhappy with the board for a whole range of reasons, some of them related to the kinds of money they pay; others related to the administration of the board. The unions are unhappy with the board for a whole range of reasons, often conveyed with real feeling.

May I say to the Premier, through the Speaker, that this is a recent phenomenon. The Premier will recall that the trade union movement has been almost universally supportive of the Workmen's Compensation Board. As a matter of fact, the trade union movement has been critical of the New Democratic Party when we have criticized the board. But all of that is changing. It's not simply management now. The trade union movement is losing patience and feels aggravated and antagonistic toward the board.

I want to point out to the Premier that a lot of members of the Legislature feel personally aggravated with the behaviour of the Workmen's Compensation Board. There are the difficulties of getting through the bureaucracy, the difficulties of dealing with them individually and the difficulties of the appeal process. If one talks about mismanagement of the economy, think of the mismanagement of that board. May I also

point out to the Premier that the Ombudsman's select committee expressed in its own careful way equal concern about the board and its refusal to share with the Ombudsman data and information that was pertinent to the inquiries being conducted.

In other words, there is something wanting right at the heart of that board. That Workmen's Compensation Board is grinding to a halt. It's simply not functioning as it should function. If I may say to the Minister of Labour, the latest and most vexing example of that is the incredibly insensitive and positively indecent refusal to grant compensation to Aime Bertrand in Sudbury.

I'm not going to rehash the case with her on the floor of the Legislature today. All I'm going to do is to make the point that the scientific evidence on which the government based compensation for stomach cancer, scientific evidence from which it based compensation for lung cancer, scientific evidence on which it based compensation for esothelioma, is exactly the same scientific evidence that has now been adduced and provided for the relationship between laryngeal cancer and asbestos.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Oh no it isn't. You are wrong.

Mr. Lewis: It all comes from the New Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Dr. Irving Selikoff.

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, it doesn't.

Mr. Lewis: If I may say to the Minister of Labour, respectfully, she has been wrong before on occupational health, and if I know her she will be wrong again on occupational health.

Hon. B. Stephenson: And so are you.

Mr. Lewis: I say to her with respect that Selikoff's findings on this matter are irrefutable.

I know the pressures the board is under, I know what is happening here, I can understand it. Why it has to happen at the expense of Aime Bertrand, I'll never know. It isn't as if the the government were talking about compensation for thousands of people in Ontario. When we provided compensation for stomach cancer, do members know how many claims have been awarded? Two.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Three.

Mr. Lewis: Is it three now? Now we've got one laryngeal cancer case and there may be

one or two more that can fit into the compensable system.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The causal relationship has not been established.

Mr. Lewis: The causal relationship has not been established!

Mr. MacDonald: Does the minister mean they have to die before she will do anything? Does she want them to die before she gets the relationship developed?

Mr. Lewis: That's really quite aggravating. I will try not to be provoked about it but it really is quite aggravating because the minister knows, as I know, that that causal relationship will be a matter of acknowledged scientific history a few months from now, or a year or two from now. It's just this constant reluctance to recognize it when it is real and to run around impugning the studies which make it real.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It is rational responsibility to function in that way.

Mr. Warner: You can't give them the benefit of the doubt.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Oh, yes, I can.

Mr. Lewis: The minister said that to us every time. Every time we introduce an industrial disease which should be compensable, she talked to us about causal relationships; she talked to us about scientific validity. My God, we have adduced scientific validity for the minister which she has never been able to counteract. All she can now say, and all that Dr. McCracken was prepared to say, is that they have initiated a study at the Princess Margaret last November.

Hon. B. Stephenson: What scientific information have you ever given me? None!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Leader of the Opposition has the floor.

Mr. Lewis: Can I point out something to her as Minister of Labour? The standing committee of the Legislature sat in December at the Workmen's Compensation Board and discussed laryngeal cancer for quite a long time. Does the minister know we were never told about the study that was struck by the board?

Mr. MacDonald: Withholding information again.

Mr. Lewis: Does that not tell the minister something about the board, about the sickness

at the heart of the board, that they should meet with a government body of legislators dealing with an issue and not tell us that they've instituted a study?

Mr. Deans: They hadn't; they hadn't that's the point.

Mr. Lewis: That's sickness. That's the only word I can think about it.

Mr. Deans: They hadn't.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes they have.

Mr. Lewis: I'll tell the minister something else. They now refer to some European study. They won't give us the information on what European study they're talking about. There's something wrong with the board, and there is something wrong—

Hon. B. Stephenson: Their researchers are fearful of harassment.

Mr. Cassidy: Balderdash!

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the minister—

Hon. B. Stephenson: Speak to the member for Durham West (Mr. Godfrey). Just speak to him and find out.

Mr. Lewis: I want to say to the minister and the House what it isn't nice to say; but we all know it and we all believe it, so let's say it.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Go ahead and say it anyway.

Mr. Lewis: Michael Starr is not an effective chairman of that board. That board is run by Harding, and Kerr and McCracken and MacDonald. Michael Starr is there purely as the voice, and although I like Michael Starr and I had hopes for his appointment, I wish it were not the case. Because that board, as a result of the top internal administrative control, is riding roughshod over the legitimate demands of working people for whom the benefit of the doubt should operate. All the scientific gobbledegook notwithstanding, it won't help Aime Bertrand. Thirty years! Thirty years from asbestos to cadmium, and the minister can't persuade the board to give him a pension, and Dr. McCracken talks so foolishly, if you'll forgive my saying so, so presumptuously about all of this.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I hope that you will read from Hansard today's question period.

Mr. Lewis: I heard carefully today's question period. I asked about it and was briefed on it, and I certainly hope that's changed. I'm glad my colleague from Nickel Belt is going to deal with this again tomorrow night, because, by God, it's a sick body. It's a really sick body and it needs a reformation badly, and you people shouldn't put up with it. You just shouldn't put up with it.

The law needs changing, the administration needs changing—

Mr. Ferrier: And the government needs changing.

Mr. Lewis: —the whole system needs changing. And the government needs changing. But I knew that all along. That's a sine qua non for the Workmen's Compensation Board.

By way of a personal observation—I'm not usually provoked to this—you're obviously a very able minister, I say to the Minister of Labour through the Chair. You handle yourself well, you're articulate. I understand that. And you master your portfolio—I understand that. But just as I always believed that a doctor shouldn't be Minister of Health, I'm becoming more and more persuaded that a doctor dealing with scientific matters finds it too often necessary to spring to the defence of certain sectors of the scientific community. I don't think that's necessary in the minister's role. I don't think she should need do that. I think in fact she should move to the innovators rather than defending the traditionalists, and that that would serve well in occupational health and serve particularly well with the Workmen's Compensation Board.

I have but one last point I want to make. I want to say something about Quebec, and I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the House leader will be kind enough to convey my words to the Premier, who may not get a chance to read them.

My colleague from Wentworth today got to his feet and associated this party with the Premier's remarks on Quebec, and wherever we can so associate we will, because we think that the initiatives that have so far been taken are pretty good initiatives and we want to keep them going. We'd like to try to make them more precise. We'd like Ontario to play an even stronger role, but a number of things which have been done seem to us to be presentable. I think something has happened in this Legislature. I think there is a kind of consensus developing about it. The leader of the Liberal Party went recently to Quebec. He spoke, I guess, in Ville St. Laurent in the Rotary Club or one of the clubs. He was

good enough to send me a copy of his speech and I read it. It spoke much truth. It said, as many of us have increasingly been saying in the Legislature, necessary things about the province of Quebec. Like others, I speak about it with some regularity here and there because one can't really avoid the subject, nor would one wish to. I don't want to prolong it here, but it is in many ways a terribly discouraging business which becomes more and more intractable.

[5:45]

I visited the province of Quebec, as all of us have been visiting, a couple of weeks ago, and saw a number of interesting people and a range of people.

I spent some time with Robert Cliche, he of the royal commission on the construction industry and a man who is sort of a folk hero in the province now. I spent some time with Claude Castonguay, a man of enormous integrity who left the former Liberal cabinet and author of that social services and health report; an excellent fellow. I met at great length with the editorial bureau of *La Presse*, eight of their senior editors. I met for a while at some length with the Minister of Social Affairs in Quebec, Denis Lazure, who happens to have been a sort of friend in the late 1960s. I met also with the editor and the associate editor of the *Montreal Star*. I had a number of strong impressions emerge, which I would like to share very briefly.

First of all, I had the impression that these pilgrimages really proliferate; the movement from Ontario to Quebec and from Quebec to Ontario is quite something to see. Every time you turn around a Claude Morin or a Castonguay is here, or a Lazure is coming to speak. Or Bill Davis, Stuart Smith, or Stephen Lewis and their colleagues in the cabinet and the benches of their parties are moving back and forth. I had the sense that if this had happened more often in the last few years, it would have been rather better today.

I smiled when I saw Claude Castonguay. The interview was hurried at the end because he was just about to meet with John Evans, president of the University of Toronto, who was coming down to pay homage on other matters, on a major conference that he wants to sponsor in the fall.

I emerged with another feeling. I emerged with the feeling of the tragedy it was that there is no focal point in Quebec to provide another federalist option independent of that of Pierre Trudeau. Within Quebec it is still seen as a Levesque-Trudeau exchange, and there is no one in the Liberal Party, no

one in the UN, no one in society as a whole apparently, who can meet Rene Levesque with a different federalist option, because Trudeau's federalist option is suspect in many eyes.

Some people talk of Castonguay. I often thought to myself that these rumours about Chretien going from the federal cabinet to assume the leadership of the Liberal Party in Quebec might not be such a bad idea, because he is a pretty able fellow and presents himself rather differently from those of his confreres in Ottawa. Or maybe somebody will emerge. There is a terrific vacuum there—a vacuum which pains and which is acknowledged everywhere you go. So the debate polarizes ever more fiercely and it causes internally, and externally around Quebec, a great deal of anxiety.

When one is there, one recognizes how everything is so absurdly heightened in the context of the drive of that society, of the ethos of that society. Castonguay was saying and it is the only thing I will report, but it struck me as so vivid at the time, maybe just me because I hadn't thought of it enough. He was saying that when the federal government imposes milk payment cutbacks capriciously or arbitrarily—two or three times in a given year or two—in the province of Ontario it is seen as a debate between the federal Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) and the provincial Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman); we rail at each other a little, we savage each other a little, and we get over it. But in the province of Quebec it is seen as further conclusive evidence of a kind of federal conspiracy to entrap that province in a discriminatory position.

When we have trouble with tariffs in the textile industry in the province of Ontario, we do battle. The Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Bennett) or the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) will stand up, or any one of us, and take on the federal government over the question of tariff policy and over the question of the way the thing works. But in Quebec, when that kind of tariff policy prejudices a fragile textile industry because the economic base is not as diversified and because there isn't the same confidence that Ontario has, it is seen again as another example of Trudeau federalism smothering Quebec's need for independence or quasi-independence. It creates in the society tremendous continuing anxiety and tension.

All of that conveyed to me, particularly by a number of other people I chatted and met with who were kind of friends and

associates, that they are a long way down the road; that that CBC poll was not misleading; that when you are talking about sovereignty with economic association, there is an increasing appeal to a lot of people in Quebec.

That, I think, is why it is so desperately important that Ontario keep the option open—keep the doors open—largely as the Premier has said he will do, and largely as the direction of policy seems to be. I don't know what the answers are. Nobody does. I am as confused and bewildered as anybody else. I do know that we shouldn't be provoked, at all costs—even when Quebec introduces a language policy like that which it has just introduced. It is to play into the independents' hands by reacting too sharply, too provocatively. It is sensible to act with concern. It is probably wrong to invite exactly the kind of backlash which the PQ will at some point, I assume, deal with.

They are, after all, the government. They appear to be a government of some ability. They appear to have a tremendous support as a political party from the people of Quebec. And that must always be remembered because somehow we have to deal with the majority of those in Quebec who want to opt for federalism.

In this Legislature we will have our differences. We have had them before around this issue. We will have them again. But there is, I think, something to be said for acting in concert. As a matter of fact, there is something to be said for the widespread sharing of use. There's something to be said for opening up this forum once every few weeks, if you will, to a debate on Quebec and on Canada, bringing each other up to date with the experiences, impressions, opinions that are gradually forming, particularly in advance of the conference which the Premier intends to hold in June. In other words, our job is not so much to divide, in a partisan way, when common approaches might make an estimable contribution.

The majority of Quebecois still want to hear the voices which speak for unity. Let us not be discordant. I judge we won't be. Perhaps this forum can be turned into an exciting intermittent assembly of those who wish to think it through, collectively, because there are many here who can talk to it with authority and with feeling. Therefore, I simply say that we appreciate the direction things are taking, feel not the slightest self-consciousness in applauding it or acknowledging it, and hope that within the temple of this Legislature it can be maintained

under control—not dispassionate, sometimes argumentative, but under control. Because otherwise, we have an enormous amount to lose.

So I end, surprisingly enough, with protestations of good faith, certainly around this issue. Doubtless we may soon be out there on the hustings—that too may be useful, because then it will be an appreciation of alternatives. The Tories seem to be doing marginally well in Ontario—so the polls would say. And that's fine too. That has never cowed us or intimidated us. Those are the momentary realities of politics.

But what I have tried to extend to the government today is a basic position, a position which says: On these specifics we divide in degree and on other specifics we divide fundamentally in kind. You will not get from the New Democratic Party arguments of trivia or personality or irrelevance. We are going to try to keep it pinned to the issues. We are going to try to keep it pinned to fundamental differences of approach. We are going to try to keep it pinned, with as much reason and substance as we can bring to bear, to alternatives. And in that spirit and with that context, I would like to move an amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Lewis moves that the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session be amended by the addition of the following words: "That while it is recognized that the concerns expressed in the Speech from the Throne, delivered by Her Honour, are genuine attempts to redress grievances resulting from many years of government mismanagement and while it is recognized that those portions of Her Honour's address which dealt with questions of national unity are eminently supportable, nonetheless we must insist that this Conservative government has once again failed to establish priorities and policies which would resolve the following major concerns in the province of Ontario:

"1. The failure to ensure employment, both short- and long-term, with particular emphasis on (a) direct government involvement in major long-term job-creating projects of wide diversity, public and private across Ontario, (b) economic stimulation by the promise of substantial tax cuts, (c) major development and building of diversified housing for low- and middle-income citizens, (d) an intensive programme of secondary and tertiary manufacturing based on our resource sector;

"2. The failure to call for an early end to the AIB, despite increasing public concern that controls are now hurting far more than they are working;

"3. The failure to moderate increases in the cost of living by refusing to recognize that (a) the present property tax formula places an unfair burden on middle, low- and fixed-income families, (b) food prices, energy prices, land and housing costs are above the consumers' reasonable capacity to pay;

"4. The failure to protect adequately our natural-resource heritage, be it water, minerals, forests or agricultural land, compounded

by the continued absence of a land-use plan for Ontario;

"5. The failure to call for a complete overhaul of the Workmen's Compensation Board to civilize it, to humanize it, and to make it respond sensitively to many of the people it was created to serve;

"And for all the foregoing enumerated reasons this government no longer enjoys the confidence of this House."

On motion by Mr. S. Smith, the debate was adjourned.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Welch, the House adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)
Daily Edition



Fourth Session, 30th Parliament

Tuesday, April 5, 1977

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1977

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

ADDRESS TO HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Mr. Speaker: Just before we begin the business of the House for the afternoon, I beg to inform the House that the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor has received a reply from Her Majesty the Queen to the message of congratulation ordered by the House on Tuesday, March 29. Her Majesty's message reads as follows:

"I warmly thank the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for their kind message of loyalty and congratulations on the 25th anniversary of my accession to the Throne. It gives me much pleasure to receive this message, which I greatly appreciate.

"Elizabeth R."

Statements by the ministry.

MUSEUM GRANTS

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, this year we are providing some extra money to help our larger museums such as Black Creek Pioneer Village, the Wellington County Museum and the London Museum to pay for special programmes which attract large numbers of visitors.

This assistance, to a maximum of \$60,000 per institution, will be paid in addition to our regular museum grants and will be calculated at 10 per cent of their annual revenue in excess of \$60,000.

I will be writing to the chairmen of the larger museums this week to explain the programme so that they can take it into consideration in planning their activities for the coming year.

I think we all recognize that our museums play a unique role in the preservation and appreciation of the cultural and social heritage of Ontario communities. In order to make visitors aware of the richness and variety of our past, some of the larger museums have developed very comprehensive programmes which attract large numbers with a resulting increase in their costs. This

assistance, which could add up to \$200,000 to our museum grant programme, recognizes our responsibility to encourage and support this local initiative.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The members will recall that last week the Speech from the Throne referred to the government's intention to pursue new regional development initiatives. In particular, it referred to the relocation of significant government operations. Today I would like to announce on behalf of the government, details of this new initiative, which will significantly increase employment outside Metropolitan Toronto. This and other steps which we are taking will reinforce the government's belief that all regions of this province should fully participate in our economic growth.

Before outlining these new initiatives, and to place them in a broader context, I would like to review briefly for the members, the highlights of the government's regional development initiatives in eastern and northern Ontario. Last December 15 I tabled our regional priority budget for 1977-78. As you know, Mr. Speaker, this budget provides for expenditures over and above normal ministry programmes, which will significantly contribute to developing regional economic potential.

During the last four years we have committed almost \$100 million in regional priority projects, some of which are partially funded by DREE. This has included investments of some \$70 million in northwestern Ontario, which has supported the commitments made by the government in the northwestern Ontario development strategy published some six years ago. This year the regional priority budget will put increased emphasis on projects for northeastern and eastern Ontario as well as continuing our strong commitments to the northwest. In northeastern Ontario we have committed new priority investments totalling \$30 million, of which \$6.8 million will be spent in 1977-78.

I am proud to say to the members that in this time of tough fiscal restraint the government has been able to expand dramatically

its commitment to the less developed regions of the province. This has been made possible by our determined policy of prudent financial management which has held overall spending in check. In addition to the enrichment of the regional priority budget in the north, I might draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the landmark step which the government recently took in establishing the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Mr. Nixon: You took that step a few years ago too. I guess it is the third time you have taken that step.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: It will contribute to developing a strong—

Mr. Nixon: And give the minister something to do.

Hon. Mr. McKeough:—economic future in the north as well as provide for closer involvement of northern citizens in the governmental process. The new Ministry of Northern Affairs will co-ordinate the government's activities in the north and ensure that the unique needs and circumstances of the area are reflected in provincial policies and programmes. To support this overall objective the ministry will administer the northern portion of the regional priority budget currently set at \$53 million for 1977-78.

At the same time, the government in consultation with interested groups has been reviewing the economic and social prospects of the north with a view to identifying viable and progressive development strategies. A draft regional strategy for northeastern Ontario was tabled in this Legislature last April. Since that time the strategy has been thoroughly reviewed at public meetings convened by the northeastern municipal advisory committee. Taking the results of this dialogue into account, the government in conjunction with the Northeastern Municipal Advisory Committee will be developing a refined economic strategy for northeastern Ontario.

Mr. Martel: You have been doing that for five years.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We are also updating the northwestern Ontario strategy in conjunction with the municipal advisory committee for that region. The government supports the growth and expansion of our resource base in order to promote further northern development. At the same time, we are fully aware that development must take into consideration the desires of our native population and necessities of preserving environmental balance. For these reasons, as members know, we es-

tablished the Hartt commission which will examine a major forest development proposal in the north. We will also be undertaking a review of other development issues in the far north.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to turn to this government's Go East policy.

Mr. Breithaupt: Go west, young man. Go west.

Mr. Bullbrook: Did Michael Gee write that? Is that to Mecca?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

Mr. Roy: Are you really serious, Darcy?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We continue to be committed to two major objectives, which are the encouragement of growth in the eastern part of the Toronto-centred region, and the strong encouragement of economic development initiatives in the eastern Ontario region. To support this policy we have taken a significant number of initiatives in the past year. I have already mentioned our actions under the regional priority budget. Another important step which we have undertaken involves the location of the Urban Transportation Development Corporation experimental test track near Kingston. This will involve some \$50 million in capital expenditures and will inject \$7 million in local pay cheques alone over a three-year period.

At this point I might also mention a number of discussions which we have been having with the federal government concerning eastern Ontario. Some of the members may be aware of the stand I took on the proposed move of Parks Canada from Cornwall to Guelph. I opposed the move and have also suggested that if Parks Canada has to be relocated, that it remain in eastern Ontario.

I have also submitted the case to the federal government that eastern Ontario be made eligible for assistance under The Regional Development Incentives Act (RDIA). Currently only the northern part of Renfrew County is eligible for this assistance. We hope that the federal government will respond positively to this idea.

One additional matter concerns The Agriculture and Rural Development Act (ARDA). Since 1962, the province has negotiated four ARDA agreements with the federal government. This has resulted in \$153 million going toward rural development, about half of

which went to eastern Ontario. In the near future my staff, and that of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, will be involved with federal officials in a joint evaluation of the ARDA programme. At this point, I might say that I hope this programme, which has done so much for rural eastern Ontario, will continue on a long-term basis.

Mr. Cassidy: You haven't said anything yet.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I should also refer to the announcement made last Thursday by the hon. Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman). This concerns the relocation of some 100 jobs to the new warehousing facilities of the Liquor Control Board in the regional municipality of Durham. In addition, the province is providing in Durham special industrial development assistance amounting to some \$1.7 million for the further development of industrial land.

On behalf of the government, I would now like to announce two new initiatives which will further promote our Go East objectives:

First, we intend to relocate the head office of the Ontario Hospital Insurance Plan, OHIP, to Kingston. This will involve the movement of over 900 jobs to Kingston.

Mr. Kerrio: Nice going, Keith. Nice going.

Mr. Breithaupt: You will need about 28 acres for all the civil servants.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order, please. Order. The hon. minister.

Mr. Breithaupt: This will be a bigger warehouse than the liquor board gets.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Second, with the exception of the office of the minister, the deputy minister, a small central staff and staff needed to take care of essential taxpayers' services in Toronto, the head office of the Ontario Ministry of Revenue will be relocated to Oshawa. This will involve some 750 jobs.

Mr. Breithaupt: Would you make it 751?

Mr. Lewis. Why don't you consider taking the minister too?

Mr. Roy: Have you told Oshawa?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: That gets Margaret out of your hair.

Mr. Lewis: Could you please take the minister too?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, these moves represent new policy initiatives for this province. They involve the relocation of head-office—

Mr. Sargent: Election strategy.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —province-wide functions outside of Metropolitan Toronto.

Mrs. Campbell: That's Liberal policy.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The government is very much aware that such actions may create some difficult human and administrative problems and we do not underestimate them. At the same time, the government is convinced that these steps should be taken in order to advance vital economic and regional development objectives which will benefit all citizens of the province.

Mr. Lewis: You are not initiating jobs. You are shifting jobs.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The relocation of the Ministry of Revenue head office and the LCBO facility will provide a major stimulus to the future development of the Durham region. [2:15]

Mr. Nixon: And the local member's sagging popularity.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Similarly, the location of OHIP in Kingston will provide a substantial and needed impetus to the economy of eastern Ontario. In addition to providing direct economic benefits, we hope that our policy will provide direction and leadership to the private sector to follow a similar path to decentralization. I might note that we have come to this decision after an extensive review of potential candidates for relocation.

Mr. Sargent: You are quite a comedian.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: After our experience with these moves, other Toronto-based government activities will also be considered for relocation. In this era of modern communication and transportation, there is no reason why a number of other government office functions traditionally located in Toronto cannot be administratively efficient if they located elsewhere.

We intend to make every effort to ensure a smooth transition of staff and functions with respect to these moves. The Chairman of Management Board (Mr. Auld), the Minister

of Government Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) and myself, along with the Ministers of Health (Mr. Timbrell), Revenue (Mrs. Scrivener) and Consumer and Commercial Relations, are working to effect this transition over a four-year period. This will involve full consultation with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and the LCBO/LLBO Employees Association concerning the relocation of staff. It will also include the development of appropriate policies for employees who cannot or do not wish to relocate. In addition, the Chairman of Management Board will undertake a thorough review of existing relocation policies to assess their applicability to a move of this magnitude.

Our staff have already reviewed the potential impact of these moves on the communities and their industries, and this has been taken into account in our decision. I want to emphasize very strongly that we intend to consult closely with the affected local governments both with respect to the location of the facilities and to ensure that adequate housing and services are available. It is our firm and continuing policy that all people in Ontario shall participate to the fullest extent possible in the growth and prosperity of this province. The measures that I have outlined today represent a bold new step in forwarding this policy.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, if I may, Mr. Speaker, new rule No. 8 indicates that after any policy statement or introduction of a government bill the government shall table a compendium of background information. In view of what the minister said, will there be such background information tabled with the statement?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I apologize. On the way over here today I recalled that rule. There are papers. This is the first time I think it might have been appropriate since the House opened. There will be papers.

Mr. Roy: How about Liberal policy?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: It won't be a very big paper, I'll tell you, if it is the Liberal policy.

Mr. Sargent: You couldn't wait to tell us.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We certainly haven't got 125 copies. We will be bringing them together and tabling them as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is statements by the ministry and the interjections are inappropriate as well as rude.

Mr. Roy: Sorry about that.

Mr. Sargent: Grow up.

Mr. Speaker: That would be good advice.

CORPORATION TAX

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: As part of a major programme of the Ministry of Revenue to achieve maximum possible simplification in tax legislation and administrative procedures, I am pleased to announce two new important steps towards achieving this goal in the area of corporation tax.

First, beginning immediately, we have put in place a new formal advance tax ruling service for businessmen, providing them with information on how their new investments and ventures will be taxed. These rulings, which will be binding upon my ministry, will materially improve the certainty which goes hand in hand with sound business decision-making. This effort gives further strength to this government's major commitment to the expansion of the Ontario economy and the creation of new jobs in this province.

Secondly, the corporation tax branch has further strengthened its communications effort by instituting two new series of the regularly published tax bulletins which will keep businessmen up to date on the law and the administrative practices of the branch. Along with these bulletins, we have published a directory of ministry staff available to assist in answering questions concerning the Act.

As set down in the Speech from the Throne, these initiatives give form to this government's priorities for ensuring public access to government and "a more open and responsive relationship with the people of Ontario." I am particularly pleased to say that I have had the benefit of expert advice from the private sector in designing these new corporation tax measures.

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Later today I will be introducing The Commodity Futures Act, 1977.

The bill implements, with limited modifications, the recommendations of the report of the inter-ministerial committee on commodity futures trading which I tabled in the House in April 1975.

That committee reported increased participation by unsophisticated speculators in this area of high volatility and considerable risk. The report noted the potential for abuse of the marketplace and the proliferation of commodity-related contracts, involving non-exist-

ent or deficient disclosure of costs and risks, misrepresentation of profits and instances of fraud.

The primary purpose of the bill is to regulate, under the Ontario Securities Commission, trading in commodity futures contracts and, in those commodity futures, options on which performance is guaranteed by recognized commodity futures exchanges or their clearing houses. Dealers, advisers and salesmen will be registered.

Bona fide hedging transactions by those who deal in, produce or use the commodity will be exempted. With this exception, under The Commodity Futures Act, only contracts and options entered into on a commodity futures exchange—registered with, or recognized by the Ontario Securities Commission and the form of which has been accepted by the director of the OSC—will be permitted to be traded in Ontario.

The Act further provides a regulatory framework within which any commodity futures exchange that might be established in Ontario would be supervised.

Commodity futures options not traded on an exchange recognized or registered by the OSC under The Commodities Act will be dealt with as securities under The Securities Act. Legitimate commodity hedgers would again be exempted.

The public must be served by honest, competent and financially sound dealers and advisers. We feel that this Act will help to eliminate speculative and manipulative abuses while benefiting both the small investor and the securities industry generally.

SECURITIES LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Today I will be introducing a new Securities Act as well as complementary amendments to The Business Corporations Act.

This legislation was initially tabled in 1972 for public comment. My predecessor, John Clement, reintroduced it in 1974 in a substantially revised format, again for the purpose of eliciting public comment. Over 50 briefs were received and on the basis of this input further revisions were incorporated into Bill 98 which I introduced in 1975.

Extensive additions, deletions and changes have been made to protect the small investor and strengthen the securities industry at the same time.

I would like to repeat the four basic objectives of the proposed Act as first set out by my predecessor:

1. A systematic ordering of amendments that have been made since the passing of the present Act in 1966;

2. Implementation of the major recommendations of the 1969 report of the Canadian Committee on Mutual Funds and Investment Contracts, the 1970 Ontario Securities Commission report on problems of disclosure arising from mergers, and the 1973 report of the select committee on company law regarding mergers and amalgamations;

3. The development of uniform provincial securities legislation acceptable to other provinces and making redundant the federal draft legislation designed to implement the 1969 mutual funds report; and

4. Development of further protections for individual investors in the securities market.

The Act I will place before this House today will introduce statutory regulations of the mutual funds industry. It will improve the continuous disclosure system by introducing statutory timely disclosure and quarterly financial disclosure. It will define with more precision when securities may be traded without a prospectus. It will revise the takeover bid provisions and it will enhance and define minority shareholders' position in takeovers.

Circumstances in which takeover bid provisions of the Act do not apply have been limited to those takeovers carried out through the facilities of a recognized stock exchange, and bids for the shares of private companies.

Disclosure similar to that called for in takeover bids will be required where an issuer makes an offer to buy its own securities.

The new Act expands insider trading liability to cover all those who buy or sell securities on the basis of insider information.

The new Act will expand on the principle that financial institutions wishing to engage in the securities business as dealers must obtain registration and comply with the appropriate conditions. However, where the transaction is the simple transmission of unsolicited orders for execution through a registrant, banks and trust companies will continue to be exempt from the obligation to register, as will banks acting as underwriters on government or municipal issues.

On the principle that The Securities Act should be the primary vehicle for investor disclosure, matters such as proxy solicitations, which are generally regarded as corporate law, are removed from The Securities Act where they pertain to Ontario incorporated companies. By parallel amendments to The Business Corporations Act, also to be intro-

duced today, matters of investor disclosure are consolidated in The Securities Act.

Because of the introduction of The Commodity Futures Act, this bill specifically differentiates between the types of contracts which fall under the two pieces of legislation.

This legislation reflects the government's adherence to the philosophy of investor protection through full disclosure. It has been long awaited by the other provinces and the investment community.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, may I direct an opening question to the Premier? Can the Premier explain or defend the position being taken by his Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth) and, therefore, we assume, the government, on the recommendations of Mr. Justice Morand in his royal commission and the many submissions presented to him that citizens' complaints against the police should be investigated by an independent citizens' tribunal or through that avenue, that that procedure has been repudiated by the Solicitor General in favour of the old position that the police shall investigate the police?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, there was a statement in the Throne Speech that the Solicitor General would be introducing a bill. I think the appropriate time to discuss that would be on second reading, when he can share with members of the House the advice, the number of meetings that he's had with the various groups affected, including the police associations, the police chiefs and others.

It's a very complex area, it's a matter of judgement. I think the Solicitor General is anxious to have a bill that would be workable in terms of setting up the structure, and I think that rather than my getting into an explanation or a debate, it would be more appropriately discussed when the bill is introduced and we can do so on second reading.

There are various facets to it that I think the House would like to hear. Certainly, if the Leader of the Opposition has contrary points of view, that would be an appropriate time to state them.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary: Since the Solicitor General's public position now is a quite striking reversal of his public

position of just a few months ago, could the Premier request of him a statement before the Legislature, let us say tomorrow, so that in advance of the legislation whenever it may come—it may be several weeks or months down the road—we will have some sense of what caused this quite surprising and largely unacceptable reversal on his part?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think before the Leader of the Opposition says it's unacceptable—he's a fair-minded individual who looks at these things very objectively and I'm sure he's as interested as we are in establishing a structure that will work—I would suggest that perhaps he might restrain his observations until there is some discussion. My own recollection—I'm only going by memory—is that the bill will be here fairly soon and we'll have an opportunity to debate it. The Solicitor General is at a funeral this afternoon, and I'll speak to him about it; but I really think the Leader of the Opposition might exercise a little patience and restraint—

Mr. Lewis: Why? I didn't reverse the policy.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to get into an argument with the Leader of the Opposition because I'm not sure that I ever recall his stating previous to this exactly what his position was in any detailed sort of form.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: As I say, I don't recall it. He may have.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, may I say that we have always taken the position that the police should not investigate the police in that fashion, and that's been held on both sides of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Singer: Supplementary: Mr. Speaker, wouldn't the Premier agree that it's highly unusual when one of his cabinet ministers reverses, in an outside announcement, a policy that's already been clearly stated? In order to avoid the kind of confrontation that's obviously about to arise because the government is going to depart from the recommendations of Mr. Justice Morand, shouldn't it be the course of wisdom and better action to clear this up before the bill is brought in? Bearing in mind that everyone has been extolling the wonders of

minority government, if the Premier wants it to continue he had better make peace in advance on this.

[2:30]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has placed his question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'm always delighted to make peace in advance; I'm delighted to make peace any time that I can. It is one of my objectives in life, unlike the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Deans: You are kind of alike.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I don't think there are too many parallels one can draw, even with the member for Wentworth. However, to get back to the point, I am not sure just what form any statement took that the Solicitor General is reported to have said. I have seen no statement in any personal sense being prepared by the Solicitor General.

We are anxious as a government to have the right answer to this important but complex problem. A great deal of attention is centred on Mr. Justice Morand's report, which is understandable. I think the member for Wilson Heights would also recall that the Solicitor General referred to Mr. Maloney's report when he did something of an investigation—I guess it was for Metro. I don't recall the exact circumstances.

There have been extensive meetings with the police associations, the police chiefs, the police commissions, etc., trying to get the best advice we can as a government to introduce a bill that is going to be workable. It is as simple as that. As I say, we will have ample opportunity here to discuss it at great length.

Mr. MacDonald: You got the best advice from Morand.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is not a debate.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, Mr. Speaker, the member for York South, by way of a supplementary has said—

Mr. Speaker: No, he did not ask a supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, I thought it was a supplementary.

Interjections.

Mr. Breithaupt: A supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We've had several supplementaries, all getting nearly the

same answer. Is this a different supplementary?

Mr. MacDonald: Better not try to answer that.

Mr. Breithaupt: Since the Premier's in a peaceful mood, will he suggest to the Solicitor General that when the bill is brought forward the Solicitor General will undertake that the bill will go to standing committee so that further public input will allow us to have the best legislation that the Premier is looking forward to having?

Mr. Lewis: You can call Mr. Justice Morand before the committee.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The House leader for the third party is, I am sure, familiar with the new rules that we have agreed to in this House. That procedure now is relatively simple. He doesn't need my commitment to have this done, as I understand the rules.

Mr. Breithaupt: It would be nice to have it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If he isn't confident about the new rules or isn't fully familiar with them, then I would remind him of them and tell him that I'll abide by the rules of this House and that as a result it will go to the standing committee.

INDUSTRIAL DEAFNESS

Mr. Lewis: Would the Minister of Labour direct or instruct the senior officials of the Workmen's Compensation Board to convene the meeting that was promised a year ago to my colleagues from the Sudbury basin and never held on the question of industrial deafness to discuss the levels of payment made for claims, to discuss why so much of the testing must take place in Toronto, and to explain why there is not a facility in Sudbury and why the board is making it so difficult on this question?

Hon. B. Stephenson: To my knowledge there is a facility in Sudbury. It most certainly can be used, provided the staff there is capable of using the machines that are used for audiometric testing. It was my understanding that the Ministry of Health had co-operated with the Workmen's Compensation Board to ensure that that testing could be done. Specific testing for permanent pensions frequently has to be done within specific facilities. As yet there have not been facilities established outside of those which are available in Toronto for a very small number of those with hearing loss.

However, I shall investigate the correspondence which was carried out between Mr. Starr and the hon. member for Sudbury East. I shall remind myself not to read the last lines of any of those letters since they are somewhat disconcerting in their content. It would seem that the use of the English language is something that might be exercised by some of the correspondents. At any rate, I shall peruse those letters and we shall do whatever we can to facilitate such a meeting.

Mr. Conway: Do you recognize the language, Bette?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Do I recognize what?

Mr. Conway: The language.

Mr. Martel: Supplementary: I am concerned about the minister's concern over my language. But doesn't the minister think it's time—after a year of promising that a meeting would be held among the Ministry of Health officials, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Labour and the Workmen's Compensation Board where decisions could be reached—that that meeting, which was promised by Michael Starr, should take place, so that the decisions affecting the lives of the workers who are now industrially deaf could be enhanced in such areas as the testing occurring in northern Ontario and rehabilitation in terms of speech therapy and so on? In northern Ontario there are no facilities for the 800 men who are, presently industrially deaf in the Sudbury area.

Hon. B. Stephenson: There are facilities. **Mr. Speaker,** I have not seen a copy of any letter which promised that such a meeting would be held. I have seen copies of correspondence from Mr. Starr asking that Dr. McCracken be in touch with the hon. member for Sudbury East to discuss the matter.

Mr. Lewis: That's nice.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am aware that indeed those discussions did take place and that the hon. member was fully informed about the activities which the board was carrying out in that area. But I shall most certainly look for a letter which promises such a meeting, because I haven't seen that.

Mr. Martel: Point of privilege, **Mr. Speaker.** I think the minister has got her facts wrong again, because the meeting did not occur. Dr. McCracken did not contact me and the agreement was not in writing. The agreement was as a result of a meeting we held here in Toronto that decided a second meeting would be held after Dr. McCracken went to Sud-

bury to size up the situation. And maybe the minister should get informed on the facts and worry less about my language and more about the workers.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I do worry about your language, Elie. It's pretty filthy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Peterson: What did he say, Bette?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I could give it to you.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

GROUP HOME REGULATIONS

Mr. Breithaupt: Question of the Minister of Community and Social Services, **Mr. Speaker,** with respect to the results of a recent inquest into the unfortunate death in a group home of James Gray, a 15-year-old boy from Cambridge.

Since that inquest uncovered very lax inspection and enforcement of The Children's Boarding Homes Act, what steps has his ministry taken to improve the inspection and enforcement of legislation governing the group homes, pending the reform that the minister has promised, and can he assure us that homes licensed under the Act now conform to its regulations governing fire and safety?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, **Mr. Speaker,** following the incident that is referred to being brought to my attention, within the ministry we immediately ensured that the procedure for inspection, particularly with respect to fire inspection, was changed. In fact I learned that it had already been changed prior to that.

At the time that that particular group home had been inspected the procedure that was followed—I'm not sure of the date, but I think that was some two or three years ago at least, if not further back than that—the procedure that had been followed was that a letter was sent out to the local fire chief with the request that the inspection be made and the certificate given that the house met certain standards. The procedure followed at that time was that if the letter was worded such that if there was no response it was assumed to be a positive response.

That has been changed, and before any certification is given there must be a positive response from the local fire chief or inspectors on that particular issue.

Further to that, we have instituted a complete review and, in fact, I have proposals before me now, under consideration, for new levels of fire safety standards to be implemented without delay, as soon as they have been approved, that would apply to group homes across the Province of Ontario—

Mr. Good: Talk to the fire marshals first.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —so that we would hopefully be able to eliminate any recurrence of that tragic incident.

Mr. Breithaupt: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: How many inspectors does the minister have available to him to cover the 19 charitable institutions, the 45 children's institutions, and the 128 children's boarding homes, and does he feel the number he has is sufficient to do the job?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I can't answer that specific question, but I will certainly undertake to get that information for the member.

Mrs. Campbell: Supplementary: Could the minister tell this House exactly how many of the 70-odd group homes operating outside The Children's Boarding Homes Act with four or fewer children do not conform with local fire, health and safety regulations, or those fire, health and safety regulations stipulated in The Children's Boarding Homes Act?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sure the hon. member can understand I don't have that information at my fingertips at the moment either, but I will try to find out what information I can and respond to the hon. member as soon as possible.

ARBITRATION PROCEDURES

Mr. Breithaupt: To the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker: Following the appointment of the Hon. Arthur Kelly as the commissioner to inquire into grievance arbitrations, which was announced last December, is the minister aware that Mr. Kelly is not prepared to hold public hearings on these grievance procedures, and does she agree with that opinion?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the commissioner appointed under The Labour Relations Act in such capacity has the power to decide in which way he or she will carry out the investigation. It is my understanding that the Hon. Mr. Kelly has suggested that his initial foray into this matter will be via letter requesting information and opinion from the relevant groups within Ontario, and that if as a result of that information gather-

ing system he finds that he requires further investigation there are other methods which he will seek to use. I don't think his mind is closed at the moment, but he is not beginning with open hearings. That is my understanding.

Mr. Bullbrook: That makes for a great dialogue.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, since the recent inquiries into bargaining patterns by Don Franks and by David Johnston into hospital bargaining units both involved substantial public involvement and travelling to areas that were convenient for the parties involved, would the minister not think that public hearings would allow a proper dialogue between the interested parties and the commissioner and therefore come to a resolution of the problems more easily once those problems were more clearly and adequately stated?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the former justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario has had a great deal of experience in collecting information for use in making judgements about certain situations, and I would most certainly respect his judgement. I would concur with the opinion expressed by my hon. colleague: it may not be the opinion of the Hon. Mr. Kelly, however, and I would most certainly consider his opinion to be important in this situation. If he asks for advice in this matter we shall most certainly give that kind of advice. Otherwise, I think we shall rely upon the judgement of the Hon. Mr. Kelly.

Mr. Bullbrook: May I ask by way of supplementary, do I understand the minister to say that it has been the historical precedent of Mr. Justice Kelly to come to his judgements as a result of correspondence?

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, that isn't what I said at all.

Mr. Bullbrook: I hope she didn't say that. He normally would come to his judgements on the basis of evidence and dialogue before him, isn't that correct?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, if I may, I am very grateful to the hon. member for the lesson in law and courtroom procedures, but the Hon. Mr. Justice Kelly has had a good deal of experience in this area in other kinds of examinations than those within the courtroom.

Mr. Roy: So has the member for Sarnia.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am not suggesting that he should use one method or another,

but rather that he has made the judgement upon the basis of his own experience, which I think is considerable and considerably more than my hon. colleague's.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the hon. member have a final supplementary?

Mr. Bullbrook: Yes, I want to know why the minister has to be provocative to me?

Mr. Roy: And he has his QC.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Bullbrook: May I ask, by way of final supplementary, seriously if I may, does the minister consider it outside her prerogative to advise the Hon. Mr. Justice Kelly that it has been really the *modus operandi* of her department in other inquiries under The Labour Relations Act to have public hearings?

[2:45]

Mr. MacDonald: But it hasn't been, that's the point.

Mr. Bullbrook: Oh, it has been.

Mr. MacDonald: Oh, no.

Mr. Bullbrook: Well, we could argue—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Side debates are out of order. Is there an answer to that from the hon. Minister of Labour?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, as I think I said earlier, I am most willing to hear Mr. Justice Kelly's reasons for carrying out the initial procedure in the way in which he has decided. I shall certainly be interested in discussing this with him if he feels it is an incomplete method for finding the information which he feels should be necessary.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cassidy: A question of the Treasurer. I understand he is quite proud to be able to announce something for eastern and north-eastern Ontario, and in particular to be announcing a concrete statement of decentralization only 11 years after the government announced that—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member get to his question?

Mr. Cassidy: I want to ask how many head offices and how many ministries or major government agencies have been located outside the boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto in the past 34 years?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I think the member knows the answer to that question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is there a supplementary?

Mr. Cassidy: Yes, the answer the Treasurer didn't give is that none has been located outside the Metropolitan Toronto boundary.

Mr. Speaker: That is not a supplementary question.

Mr. Cassidy: My supplementary is this: As far as I can gather from the minister's statement, the impact this year of his announcement is \$6 million to \$6.5 million of spending in northeastern Ontario. But the unemployment rate is 9.5 per cent and planning for two buildings in Oshawa and in Kingston—

Mr. Speaker: Now, your question?

Hon. Mr. Davis: It's a great programme.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Cassidy: How many jobs will be created this year in Kingston and in Durham from these initiatives and when does he anticipate that employees from the two ministries will actually begin to be transferred?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would read the statement instead of babbling he would find out we said this would take place within four years.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We are wasting valuable time here.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is supposed to be a question period and not a debate. Please keep that in mind in your questions. Now we will hear a supplementary question from the member for Grey-Bruce. Does the member for Grey-Bruce have a supplementary?

Mr. Sargent: Yes, I do. If this is going to take four years to do, why in hell do you announce it right now?

Mr. Speaker: Is there an answer to that? No. All right.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: We didn't get an answer. No answer?

Mr. Sargent: Where is the answer?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

An hon. member: You'll get it in four years.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Carleton East with a final supplementary on this question.

Ms. Gigantes: I wonder if the Treasurer would consider asking the Minister of Government Services to make sure that the tendering for moving firms goes to firms from eastern Ontario, since this will be the prime area of creation of new jobs in all his announcements?

An hon. member: You are just transferring jobs, not creating jobs.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Ms. Gigantes: Give our truckers a chance.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The Minister of Government Services isn't here but it is my understanding that the decision as to which moving firm is used is a decision made by an employee in the Ontario service and I don't think that's something we would lay down.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Mrs. Campbell: My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. Will the minister confirm that the government was on the verge of granting some form of financial relief for municipalities faced with increasing costs related to court-ordered group home placements, but the minister backed off, and his statement yesterday only further postponed the solution to the question?

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, there is no truth in the implication that underlies the hon. member's question, and I think any statement on the question of what assistance may or may not be available would be a matter for the Treasurer to respond to.

Mrs. Campbell: Supplementary: Notwithstanding that answer, does the minister himself not realize that the cost to municipalities of court-ordered placements has increased 200 to 300 per cent in some areas during one year alone? In Peel such costs have gone from \$79,000 in 1974 to more than \$1.2 million this year. When is the minister going to address himself to this critical problem?

Mr. Ruston: Where is that? Where is Peel?

Mr. Sweeney: Is it expensive to live in Peel?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Once again, I would like to assure the hon. member that I'm well aware of the problem, that I have been engaged in discussions with my colleagues about the problem and possible solutions to it. I can only reiterate what I said before, that in terms of any interim solution to the problem, to which I think the hon. member is directing herself at this point, the Treasurer would be the proper minister to direct the question to.

On the question of a longer-term solution I think that, as indicated in the announcement yesterday, the funding arrangements with respect to the local committees, and the authority of the local committees in purchase, assessment and placement, will provide the solution to that problem. Again, any further announcement with respect to the interim solution will not be forthcoming from me but from either the Premier or the Treasurer.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, since I have an invitation to address that question to the Premier, could the Premier answer the question?

Mr. Speaker: Did the hon. minister refer this to the Treasurer?

- Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Treasurer have an answer for that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Don't you mean me?

Mrs. Campbell: It was the Premier to whom the minister referred me, I think, and I'm quite prepared—

Mr. Speaker: It sounded like the Treasurer to me.

Mrs. Campbell: He said the Treasurer the first time and the Premier the second.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. We'll allow either one to answer.

Hon. Mr. Davis: As a matter of fact, to keep the record straight, he said the Treasurer the first time and he said the Treasurer or the Premier the second time. He gave the hon. member an alternative, and I'm very pleased that—

Mr. Good: What is the right pecking order?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Is the member for Waterloo talking about pecking order? I've got

to tell him that he is obviously well down in his party.

Mr. Ruston: Darcy is well down the pecking order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is there an answer?

Hon. Mr. Davis: The government is quite aware of these difficulties. In my capacity as the member for Brampton I have had some lengthy discussions with the chairman of the great region of Peel as they related to their financial difficulties. This is being discussed by the government and I expect some sort of decision will be coming forward very shortly.

LEAD CONTAMINATION

Mr. Grossman: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. I have a copy of a letter dated April 5, addressed to the minister, from those persons who have resigned from the lead cleanup committee. Specifically, after they complain about the use of lottery funds to accomplish the cleanup—

An hon. member: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: —they go on to request a meeting with the minister.

An hon. member: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Crossman: My question then is, firstly, can the minister assure those of my constituents who just want their areas and lands cleaned up regardless of where the money is coming from, that the cleanup will once again continue and not in any way be held up by this bickering? Secondly, how will the minister respond to their request that they meet the minister and Mr. Cockburn shortly and that the meeting be held in other than a provincial government office?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I haven't received a copy of that letter. It's dated today apparently, so I haven't as yet received a copy of that letter. To answer the hon. member's question, yes, the cleanup will go ahead and, yes, I would be happy to meet with the correspondent of that letter, but I really can't understand why it should be outside a provincial government office.

Mr. Martel: They trust you, George.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that there's some suggestion of using lottery funds for the cleanup, could the minister take a page from the Minister of Culture and Recreation's brochure that says "try us"? Would the minister try us in this Legislature to see if we'll pass legislation to make the polluter pay?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, we have legislation on the books now that will make the polluter pay.

Mr. Sweeney: Like Dow Chemical?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: It requires taking court action in all instances, sometimes lengthy involved court action and we're not always assured of success.

Mr. Nixon: So far you have just used it for political purposes.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: In this particular case, as I've indicated before, there are three or four companies involved. The amount of money is not large here. They are making—

Mr. Singer: You certainly are a masochist.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —an undertaking that they will contribute towards the cost of this cleanup. None of the studies or hearings has established that they are solely responsible for this contamination and therefore, under those circumstances, it's reasonable to consider this type of an arrangement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is the same question that was asked the other day and the same answer given, so that's the last supplementary.

Mr. Warner: A non-answer.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Mr. McClellan: This is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Given that neither the omnibus children's bill nor the local children's services committee was adequately defined or adequately described yesterday, and given that they are both essential to his proposed solution to the problems in child-care services, may I ask the minister when we can expect from his ministry a precise statement of details of the role, authority, composition, mode of selection, resources, terms of funding accorded to these local children's services committees, to—

gether with their precise relationship to local government and to existing agencies, none of which things were provided yesterday?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, I can't give the member a precise date on that because a number of the matters that he cites are going to be the subject of discussions that will be taking place with local governments across this province over the next two or three months. The new staff from the ministry under the new associate deputy minister is working on these matters at the present time. I will be engaging shortly in ongoing discussions with municipal leaders working on such questions as the composition of the boards and the precise relationship that they will have with local governments across the province. As soon as those decisions are arrived at, then I would be quite happy to inform the member as the information becomes available to me.

Mr. McClellan: Do I understand then, by way of supplementary, that at this point the minister does not know what the details are and he is, in fact, flying by the seat of his pants?

Hon. Mr. Norton: That's not true at all. I think that—

Mr. Martel: Well, it sounds that way.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: We have a very clear idea of what it is we are doing in terms of a policy and the direction in which we are going in children and youth services in this province. In terms of the details, the hon. member can be sure they will be sound and they will be developed in consultation with local governments across this province. They will not be imposed arbitrarily, as perhaps the member on the opposite side would choose to do.

Mr. Breithaupt: It is like consulting with Oshawa now that you have already announced you are going to move the Ministry of Revenue.

Mr. Peterson: Is Darcy writing that junk?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Final question. Is there a supplementary? The member for Kitchener-Wilmot.

Mr. Sweeney: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Right.

Mr. Sweeney: Will the minister's new legislation continue to include funding through the rehabilitation branch for children with serious learning disabilities? Or is that going to be transferred to the Minister of Education where it rightfully belongs?

An hon. member: He told you that yesterday.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Norton: There are discussions that have been taking place between my ministry and the Ministry of Education with respect to the question of special education for children under those circumstances, and the matter has not been entirely resolved yet to the best of my knowledge. As soon as it is, I will be happy to inform the House.

[3:00]

UTDC FOREIGN CONTRACTS

Mr. Cunningham: I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Now that he has admitted that a foreign commercial agent has been used by the Urban Transportation Development Corporation in its efforts to secure a contract in Venezuela, will he tell the House whether an agent will be used in the Israeli deal, or any other deals that the UTDC is contemplating?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I don't know that the word "admitted" as used by the hon. member is appropriate. In reply to a question by him I confirmed that the consortium, which includes UTDC and the Hawker Siddeley company, did use the services of a commercial representative as required by the government of Venezuela in the submission of the tender to that government. As to the use of that commercial agent or the knowledge that there was a commercial agent involved, I was aware of it, the directors of the corporation were aware of it, the government was aware of it, and the terms of the contract with the commercial agent were within the terms of reference of the guidelines established by the government of Canada for commercial agents in foreign dealings.

Mr. Sargent: That's no recommendation.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You'd better believe it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Snow: That's your party, Eddie, with regard to what the hon. member men-

tioned about Israel, I am not aware of any proposal being put forth by UTDC in Israel.

Mr. Peterson: Eddie would do it for you.

Mr. Cunningham: Would the minister table the guidelines under which these agents he referred to are operating and which he said the federal government had tabled and provide this House with a statement of their activities on the basis of their participation, just how we compensate them and what the arrangements were in the proposed Caracas deal?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Yes, I will be pleased to do that. In fact, I've asked for copies of all that information and I expect I'll have it in a day or so.

DOWNSVIEW AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Housing. Last January, the Minister of National Defence announced that part of the Downsview airport site will be released, and since there is an atmosphere of secrecy around the deal, could the minister please tell us who is making the decision on the location of the site and at what level, and what is the involvement of the provincial government? Would he also tell us if there is any indication of how the site will be used, and assure the House that the provincial government will request of the other parties that the site be used for housing, disregarding other extravagant solutions like the one of an industrial showplace proposed by the mayor of North York?

Mr. Sweeney: If you are reading my press releases, give me credit.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You are too modest.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I give them both credit; one for writing it and one for reading it.

The involvement of the provincial government, as a result of the announcement by Mr. Danson, is to have been asked, or invited if you will, to sit on a committee that is made up of representatives from the borough, from Metro, from the federal government and from my ministry. We are, of course, interested in what sort of planning will go on in the area. It is certainly our desire that that area will be used for housing and that is the sort of input that we are putting into this committee, that it should be developed as a housing area. We certainly have not been approached

—at least I haven't; nothing has come back to me requesting that it be used as an industrial park or industrial showplace. The information I have is that we are considering it only as a housing development.

Mr. di Santo: Since there is an understandable concern on the part of the residents, would the minister ensure that his ministry will request the committee that future meetings will be open to the interested residents in the area?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: No, Mr. Speaker. I think this committee is working on a technical level. We go all through this little hoop-jumping every time something like this happens. We're not working entirely in a fish bowl. There's a lot of technical discussion going on. When it comes time to develop that site, I'm sure the hon. member is aware that it will be required to be aired in the borough council, it will be required to have a subdivider's agreement approved, if there is a sale of land involved that will have to be approved, and all of that will be public. They may well have to rezone the land or perhaps even change the official plan.

It seems to me there are all kinds of opportunities for public input but certainly not at this particular point.

Mr. Singer: I wonder if the minister can at this stage make sure that the members representing the area in which the airport is located are kept advised as to what the Ontario government is saying, apparently on behalf of all of us, because of the great secrecy with which these discussions are being carried on and because of the impossibility of getting information from the former Tory candidate in Armourdale, now the mayor of North York, or from other people who are involved in this.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I trust the hon. member is aware, and I am sure he is, that the land is presently owned by the federal government. The land is located within the borough, and the mayor and council do have some control over that. Our involvement would be as it would be on any other development, that is, interested in the type of planning that will go on, and the type of development that will go there. I don't think we have any secret information other than what has been announced in the press and of which we are certainly aware. We have sat in on meetings discussing the housing development but there are no secret meetings.

Mr. Singer: That is the only secret information you have. You go to secret meetings, yes.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: There are no secret meetings at all.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I wish to respond again. Just because the hon. member is not there does not necessarily make it secret. It possibly makes it a lot more orderly.

Mr. Sargent: Why doesn't the minister admit that his policy will continue to be that no man will be allowed to build the type of housing he can afford?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That's not really supplementary to the original question. Does the minister have a quick, short answer?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I don't have any policy such as the hon. member is referring to. However, having read some brochures that he sent to me, I can understand why he leans that way.

FISH LEVELS

Mr. G. I. Miller: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. In view of the fact that we have some of the finest fishing streams in Ontario in my riding and in view of the fact that the Long Point Conservation Authority's put-and-take trout catch for 1976 was reduced by approximately 50 per cent, I wonder if the minister would look at bringing this up to the same level as before or perhaps higher.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I will be glad to look at the problem.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Supplementary: What is the capacity for the hatching of put-and-take trout for Ontario and, secondly, what is the capacity for fish hatcheries in Ontario? Have they increased over the past years or are things normal? Because of the fact that there is pressure for fishing has there been any increase?

Hon. F. S. Miller: We have a major hatchery in the planning stages which I understand will just about double the total production of hatchery fish in the province. I think the easiest answer on the production of hatchery fish is there are not enough. We are not producing as many as are being caught, particularly in the species such as trout where we haven't been able to achieve natural regeneration of fishery stock. I guess in the Great Lakes our emphasis has changed from put-and-take fishing to trying to improve the natural regeneration of fish without having

to use hatchery stock. Unless that succeeds, I don't think we will ever be able to afford to keep on supplying fish for one-shot fishing.

Mr. Reid: Will the minister indicate where this hatchery is going to be built, what kind of fry or eggs or whatever it is going to supply and where they will be earmarked to go?

Hon. F. S. Miller: My understanding is that the hatchery that is proposed is at Bath, Ontario. Insofar as being able to tell the member the kind of fish that would be proposed there, I really can't tell him that.

Mr. Reid: Isn't the minister embarrassed at his fish propagation?

Hon. F. S. Miller: My fish propagation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I do better than the hon. member does.

Mr. Reid: That is true but that's not saying much.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary: In fact, isn't it accurate to say that the programme within the ministry so far has been a failure in that less than one-half of one per cent of hatchery fish reach maturity?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think if one analysed the number of fish in any natural reproduction system you'd find a very low percentage of fish reaching maturity. I used to teach elementary biology—

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: —and I can only say that one of the basic reasons fish have lots of eggs is because the success rate is low.

HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION

Mr. Wildman: I have a question for the Minister of Labour.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Algoma only, please.

Mr. Wildman: In view of the fatality which occurred at number four blast furnace at Algoma Steel this morning—

Mr. Deans: The Minister of Natural Resources has finally found his calling.

Mr. Speaker: We can't hear the member for Algoma because of the interjections. Thank you.

Mr. Wildman: In view of the fatality that occurred at number four blast furnace at Algoma Steel this morning, which tragically demonstrates the importance of hearing the views of Sault residents on worker health and safety, and the fact that the members of the executive of Local 2251 to whom the minister spoke last Friday did not understand her to say that she would consider having a hearing in Sault Ste. Marie, as the minister said yesterday in the House, will she now set a definite date for a public hearing on the omnibus legislation to be held in Sault Ste. Marie?

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, I will not, because although the leaders of the union in the Sault may not have understood what I said, I did say that if they had difficulty in travelling to either Toronto or Thunder Bay to make their views known, we would seriously consider holding a hearing in the Sault. That I promised to do; that I will do.

Mr. Mackenzie: How come you're the only one who understood this?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Because I was the only one asked.

NON-RETURNABLE CONTAINERS

Mr. O'Neil: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. If the minister intends to reduce the volume of waste resulting from non-returnable soft drink containers, can he tell us why he is permitting non-returnable cans to stay on the market indefinitely while banning non-returnable bottles as of April 1, 1978, which will result in the loss of at least 200 jobs at the Consumers Glass plant in Etobicoke, which I toured this morning, and many other jobs in other Canadian-owned plants and their suppliers in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The decision is now to ban the non-returnable bottle as of April 1978. As I indicated, one of the reasons why we've done this is because there is a returnable bottle on the market; it is available now and has been available for some time. It seems unnecessary, and even ludicrous, that we should also have two forms of glass.

In order to reduce litter, solid waste and the cost of energy we've decided to prohibit the non-returnable glass bottle. As far as the can is concerned, if it was possible, for example, to have such a thing as a refillable can or a returnable can, we would ban the non-refillable cans. However, if the hon. member is worried about employment, I am

sure he realizes that it would compound the situation if we banned the can at this time. The option is at this point to put a tax on cans, thereby levelling off or reducing the sale of pop in can containers.

Mr. O'Neil: A supplementary: In the meeting which the minister plans to have with the glass industry next week, will he be in a position to consider a policy which will end government indecision and ambiguity on this subject, treat both non-returnable glass and metal containers fairly and allow sufficient lead time for both the industries and workers to adjust to needed changes to protect the environment?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Are you opposed to banning non-returnable bottles?

Mr. Singer: Which lobby is the strongest?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Come on. Let's hear you say it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. minister has the floor.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You're chicken.

Mr. Roy: He is calling us chicken.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: To answer the hon. member's question, I think he will agree that there has been sufficient lead time. We have been talking about this subject for years—

Mr. Peterson: It's just that nobody takes you seriously, George.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The question of the possibility of banning the non-returnable bottle has been debated in this House for at least five years. The regulation that was announced a month or so ago gives the industry more than a year's lead time; I would think that is sufficient.

To answer the first part of the hon. member's question, I am prepared, as he has indicated, to meet with the glass workers and to deal with them fairly. Certainly I can't make any commitment that there will be any changes in what we have done or the regulations that exist now.

[3:15]

Mr. Speaker: A final supplementary. The hon. member for Lakeshore.

Mr. Lawlor: What disposition, if any, has the hon. minister made of the 1,000 signatures which were handed him on this subject last week?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I am going through them one by one.

An hon. member: A supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: No, that was the final supplementary. A new question.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Mr. Martel: A question for the Minister of Labour: Is the minister aware that the number of cases where workers are having difficulty getting their benefits paid is worsening, and what does she intend to do to improve the resolution of these claims quickly and effectively?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that there have been some workers who have had delays in receiving their initial compensation cheques after injury. I am aware that the board is attempting to resolve this as rapidly as possible and has made considerable headway. I am not sure of the delays, precisely, to which the hon. member for Sudbury East refers.

Mr. Martel: A supplementary: Is the minister aware that yesterday alone I had 15 workers in my office? It's a daily occurrence of four, five and six workers with compensation claims not being processed, and the length of time is anywhere from six to 10 weeks.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that any large number requires that period of time. Indeed, 91 per cent of all claims which are submitted to the board in one year are dealt with expeditiously, as rapidly as possible, and to the full satisfaction of those people laying claims.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Final supplementary.

Mr. Lewis: You have been reading your own speeches.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Deal with the facts.

Mr. Laughren: Supplementary: Is the minister aware, despite promises from senior officials at the board that workers would no longer have their benefits reduced without prior notification, that this is going on as much as ever, if not more?

Mr. Reid: It sure is.

Mr. Laughren: And further, that workers' benefits are being cut off without medical evidence to substantiate that being done.

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that, and if the hon. member has any cases of that, if he will please let me know the names I shall be pleased to investigate them.

Mr. Reid: Oh, it's going on all the time.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I don't how it would be possible for me to know about it unless, indeed, I am informed of the names and the claims—

Mr. Lewis: You could go to the hearings at the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Mr. Roy: It's not fair. You are only the minister; you wouldn't know that.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I would suggest to the hon. member for Sudbury East, he might have been here yesterday.

Mr. Sargent: That wasn't very nice.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That was a final supplementary. Point of privilege?

Mr. Martel: When the minister says I should have been here yesterday, I have a son who is a page and who had an eye appointment with a specialist which was of long standing. I took him there yesterday, for her edification.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I didn't say you "should have been," I said you might have been—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

FIRE SAFETY IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Correctional Institutions. As a result of the five tragic deaths in the fire at Stratford jail, what has the ministry done in implementing the 13 recommendations of the coroner's inquest calling for improved training in regard to fire drills and the use of emergency equipment? In light of the events leading up to those tragic deaths, the ministry and the minister agree that it is time to initiate a public inquiry into the wholly arbitrary use of solitary confinement cells and their non-compliance with health and safety regulations, security requirements and emergency procedures?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, I issued a quite comprehensive statement to the media

back in late February or early March—I've forgotten the exact date—in which I indicated that we adopted 12 of the 13 recommendations of the jury. The 13th of those recommendations is one which is not within my ministry's competence to adopt, inasmuch as it relates to another branch of government altogether, namely at the municipal level.

I think, though, it would be helpful to all members were I to bring to this House—and I would tell the hon. member for York Centre that I would propose to do that very shortly—a comprehensive update on the actions that we have taken with respect to fire training of all our correctional officers, and the other steps which flow from this coroner's jury bank of recommendations, with all of which I found myself in basic concurrence. And, of course, we're all anxious to see that that kind of problem does not and just will not arise again.

Mr. Stong: Supplementary: The minister has not answered my question. I'm wondering what the minister's attitude is towards a public inquiry into the use of the solitary confinement cell and its non-compliance with the health and safety regulations, emergency procedures and security requirements?

Hon. Mr. Meen: I'm sorry, I thought I had directed a comment to that, Mr. Speaker. The fact of the matter is that we do require solitary confinement cells to meet, and they do meet, health requirements. To the extent that in any sense they do not, of course, that kind of situation would be remedied. We have to have solitary confinement cells for disciplinary purposes and otherwise.

Mr. Sargent: Tear those jails down. Burn them down.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Reid: Supplementary: What does the minister propose to do with those jails that are so old and so rotten that there is absolutely nothing that can be done in regard to bringing them up to any reasonable level of fire protection; particularly, for instance, in Fort Frances?

Hon. Mr. Meen: I understand that there will be an ultimate replacement of the facility at Fort Frances—

Mr. Reid: We've heard that for 10 years.

Hon. Mr. Meen: —but so far as fire protection is concerned, additional air packs are being provided and other firefighting facilities also provided. Training drills are being

worked out with staff. All new correctional officers taken on board receive full firefighting training within the first 30 days, and generally everything is being done with respect to the older jails, which this province assumed in 1968 when it took over the responsibility from the municipalities. Of course, where it is impossible to adequately update the jails the province is directing, as quickly as it economically can do so, its attention to replacement of those jails with modern detention centres.

Mr. Sargent: That's a joke, that isn't true.

Mr. Peterson: I have a two-pronged supplementary, because I'm afraid you'll only allow me one, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware one of the very serious problems, and probably one of the principal reasons for the deaths, is that many of his ministerial and departmental memos were ignored in the past. The first part of my supplementary is: How does he know that his present memos and directives are being followed in all of the institutions? Secondly, in one particular case there was a message from one of the inmates to his lawyer. The urgency of that memo was not conveyed to the lawyer and there's a possibility, had that situation been different—had the facts been different—one particular person would not have died; and in fact all five may not have died. My question is: What changes has the minister made in terms of communications out of the jails?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, with respect to directives from head office, shall we say, out to the various jails and detention centres, we have instituted a form of acknowledgment of the contents of receipt of the directive—

Mr. Conway: In triplicate, I hope.

Hon. Mr. Meen: —and my staff advise me that with respect to anything of this sort they are also making sure that there is personal contact to make sure that the directive is understood. It was not a question of that particular directive to which the hon. member refers not ever having been received. It was in fact received, but it would appear that its import may have been misunderstood. At least that was the tenor of the testimony given at the inquest.

Now with respect to the lawyer for the one inmate, to which the hon. member refers, I don't have before me the actual chronology of the communication times on that fateful day. But if memory serves me, it seems that around 12:30 or so in the afternoon the

message was conveyed to the law firm and the person at the jail was advised that the lawyer was not there.

Mr. Peterson: That was 9:50 in the morning—

Hon. Mr. Meen: Well it may have been earlier—9:55 perhaps? In any event, the lawyer was not there. The message was subsequently, I am told, relayed to the lawyer's wife. But the lawyer did not return home or back to his office until roughly 4:30 that afternoon, at which time I understand he got the message and evidently attended at the jail shortly after. But by that time the fire was underway and he was unable to get in. From what I have been able to determine, in that respect, the information was passed along without delay, and my officers did discharge their responsibility to communicate the information in the form in which it was given to them, in the form in which the inmate wrote the message to his lawyer; it was conveyed to the lawyer's law firm by telephone quite promptly after it had been picked up from within the jail complex.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: No. Order, please. The oral question period has expired.

Mr. Peterson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Your point of order is what?

Mr. Peterson: May I have your indulgence on this particular issue? It is a matter, in my opinion and in various people's judgement, of very—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think if the hon. member wishes further information he might deal directly with the minister on a personal basis.

The oral question period has expired.

Mr. Martel: Point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Point of order?

Mr. Martel: In view of the answer I received from the Minister of Labour, and the fact I am dissatisfied with that answer, I would like to indicate to the Speaker that I would like to continue that debate this evening on the late show.

Mr. Speaker: So noted.

Petitions.

REPORTS

Hon. W. Newman presented the report of the financial protection task force.

MOTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that the committees of the House be authorized to meet concurrently with the House, as the committees may determine, for the balance of this Parliament.

Motion agreed to.

COMMODITY FUTURES ACT

Hon. Mr. Handleman moved first reading of Bill 19, An Act to regulate Trading in Commodity Futures Contracts.

Motion agreed to.

SECURITIES ACT

Hon. Mr. Handleman moved first reading of Bill 20, The Securities Act, 1977.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS CORPORATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Handleman moved first reading of Bill 21, An Act to amend The Business Corporations Act.

Motion agreed to.

[3:30]

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved first reading of Bill 22, An Act to amend The Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Haggerty: The purpose of the bill is to provide a mechanism whereby the minister can order parties to a strike or lockout to end the strike or lockout for a period of 60 days during which time the parties try to reach a settlement.

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Stong moved first reading of Bill 23, An Act to amend The Education Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, this bill defines compulsory school age and special education and it guarantees every child of compulsory school age a right to an education. The bill also transfers the establishing of special education programmes from the discretion to the duty of school boards throughout Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Just before the orders of the day, I should announce to the House in accordance with the provisions of standing order 27(g) and provisional order 4, the hon. member for Nickel Belt has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the response of the Minister of Labour concerning the refusal of the Workmen's Compensation Board to recognize laryngeal cancer as a compensable disease. The question was raised on Monday, April 4. The matter will be debated at 10:30 this evening.

Also, we are aware that the member for Sudbury East indicated orally his dissatisfaction with the answer given by the Minister of Labour, and provided he completes the rest of the requirement—which he has done—then this matter will also be debated at the close of business tonight.

Orders of the day.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hamilton West.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Hasn't he spoken yet?

Mr. S. Smith: Can you imagine what is going to happen after I speak?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Change your mind?

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to take part in the Throne Speech debate, and I think to begin I would like to state what I have already stated outside this House. That is, that on balance we feel that the government's proposed programmes as laid out in the Throne Speech, one of the longest Throne Speeches on record, seems to us constructive and is, basically speaking, acceptable to the Liberal Party.

We will, of course, want to examine very carefully each piece of legislation as proposed

to ensure that in fact the legislation itself comes before us and is carrying out the purpose that is alleged to be the intention.

To a large extent I think we all agree that the Throne Speech has been a tribute to the effectiveness of this minority Legislature. We believe that minority government has been working in the last year. We agree with the government in its belief that minority government can work and has been doing so. I'd like to say I believe that the Liberal caucus has played an important role in making minority government work. We have made accommodation without sacrificing principle. It's our caucus, as you know, Mr. Speaker, which has originated many of the proposals which form the substance of the Throne Speech.

Mr. MacDonald: The enthusiasm is a little strained.

Mr. S. Smith: In the last session we forced a substantial rewrite of the farm income bill. I think you know, Mr. Speaker, that we voted against the bill as originally presented and insisted that it be taken back. In some centres, our behaviour in so doing and then voting confidence in the government so that it could carry on through the summer was somewhat misunderstood. But we're proud of the action we took. In fact, the net result was a farm bill that far from being the sham that was brought before us the first time, with about \$3 million or so, became a bill which was possibly going to be worth \$50 million or thereabouts to the farming people of this province.

Mr. MacDonald: You borrowed the Minister of Agriculture and Food's (Mr. W. Newman's) line.

Mr. S. Smith: We triggered major improvements in education and we're very pleased at the constructive role we played in bringing about improvements in the province's educational system. We fought for and we obtained a re-examination of a decision that could bankrupt the publicly-owned Gray Coach Line. We also initiated and in many ways forced the government to act on the audit of the home buyer's grant, in which millions of dollars of taxpayers money have been given out to persons not entitled.

In the Throne Speech the government has indicated that it will be making further moves on issues that we care deeply about. The Throne Speech mentions the assisting of small business, the continuation of rent review for the life of the Anti-Inflation Board, revamping the system of child care and youth serv-

ices, improving services for the elderly and extending second language instruction in the schools. I think all fair-minded persons know these are issues in which the Liberal Party has spoken decisively and with courage. I'm pleased to see that the government is moving in these directions. We want to do the best we can to assist a constructive resolution of some of these problems.

There is one main concern which we feel is not adequately dealt with in the Throne Speech, and I've mentioned this outside the House, and that's the matter of job creation. More jobs plainly are needed for all Ontarians but there's a particular urgency for young people. We believe government initiatives are urgently required to alleviate what is now a 15 per cent unemployment rate among our youth. It's simply unacceptable to the Ontario Liberal Party that unemployment generally in this province of opportunity should be nearing seven per cent and still rising.

Mr. Cassidy: It wasn't unacceptable to Donald Macdonald.

Mr. S. Smith: We're looking for substantial job-creating measures in the provincial budget next month.

Mr. Cassidy: After a federal election, eh?

Mr. S. Smith: I think you know, Mr. Speaker, we have been critical of the federal budget and we hope for something better from the provincial budget. Just as we have prompted action in other areas of government in the last year, we intend action in this important matter of job creation that might be our next contribution to the effective functioning of minority government; we would like to make constructive suggestions along these lines in the hope that we can be helpful to the government in its deliberations.

Many of the serious issues we encounter today are issues to which we believe Liberalism offers a unique and a working alternative to both the Conservative and socialist options. The decisions facing us today will determine possibly for all time the nature of the land and the society that we bequeath to succeeding generations, and decide we must in many of these areas, particularly the areas of industrialization, urbanization, waste management, wealth distribution, energy dependency and the process of government itself.

It's so difficult to make decisions nowadays. We have a flood of information available. Experts will show us how everything is pretty well related to everything else, and there tends to be a temptation to procrastinate, to

become somewhat paralyzed, to wait for the problems to become overwhelming and then suddenly to act impulsively. In these circumstances, it seems to me that one needs a philosophy, a moral and intellectual yardstick against which to measure each choice.

The fundamental principle of Liberalism is the belief in the dignity and the worth of the individual. We see the state as the creation of man to protect and to serve him, and not the reverse.

Mr. Reed: That's why I ran as a Liberal.

Mr. S. Smith: Liberalism in today's context seeks to give individuals a feeling of importance, a genuine stake in society, the ability to regulate and conduct their own lives and make their own decisions as close to home and as close to family as is humanly possible.

In thinking about this, we must ask ourselves, however, just what it is that challenges and in some ways causes difficulty for individuals and for individualism today. There was a time, in the early days of Liberal philosophy, when I think it was easy to recognize that there was a tyrant that needed to be opposed, that people needed protection as individuals against a tyrant. Then, as time went by, it became more a matter of protecting the individual against a possible tyrannical majority, if we think particularly of the writings of Mill and his contemporaries. Then, through the early part of this century, accumulations of capital in the hands of a few tended to tyrannize and obstruct the possibility of individual development for so many citizens it was necessary for government to move, and government to move strongly and decisively, in support both of the creation of labour unions and also by utilizing the power of government itself to regulate and control the very great accumulations of capital.

Now the matter is even more complex. Now if we stand back and ask ourselves for the last quarter of this century just where the threat to the individual is emerging from, I think most of us would have to agree that it's a much more complex matter. The individual today is finding himself with a feeling of alienation, a feeling of being removed somehow from the ability to control his own destiny and his own future. His own development as an individual is hampered on a number of sides.

First of all, I'd suggest that power and money have been centralized both geographically and functionally in large industrial complexes, and we have, to cope with those, large unions and large governmental bureauc-

racies; and in this, somehow, individuals have to be guaranteed a personal stake in the economy and in the democratic system. People are coming to feel that the organizations in which they labour, in which they live, in which they vote, are too impersonal, are too alien, unconcerned with and unresponsive to them as individuals.

We are experiencing a decline in the traditional values of hard work, striving for excellence, risk taking and voluntarism. These are clearly in decline at the moment, and we believe the answer lies in the decentralization of decision-making, a commitment to smaller units of government, a genuine commitment to small business, to a school system which is challenging to the individual, to minority rights and a belief in the humanization of the work place. I'll have some comments to make on a number of these aspects during the course of my address in this chamber.

[3:45]

When you talk about individuals it's terribly important to look at the general make-up of our population and to recognize some of the important trends that face us in society. Perhaps more than anything else, the most striking trend is the increase in the number of elderly persons in our society. The ranks of the elderly, I guess, are increasing as a proportion of our society all the time; and this will continue for at least the next two decades. I suppose that all of us, if we have not already joined that particular group, hope to some day.

Interjection.

Mr. Nixon: There's nothing you can do about it, Bill; Grecian Formula won't do it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: My mother is 83 or 84; and I will tell you she would make you feel it.

Mr. Reid: Your hair is as grey as your suit these days.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I worry about you people, that is why it is so grey.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. S. Smith: I can assure you I am completely mystified as to why the Premier has suddenly sprung to life on this particular subject of the elderly but I'm delighted none the less.

Mr. Reid: He thought you said infirmed.

Mr. Bullbrook: It wasn't personal, it was participatn.

Mr. Nixon: It's nice to have you drop in, Bill.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Your own members were asleep and I thought I'd help you out. The member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) was having a snooze.

Mr. S. Smith: I certainly don't need the Premier's assistance in falling asleep, although he has assisted me in this way during some of his speeches.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If you would listen to more of them you wouldn't have the problems you have.

Mr. S. Smith: The large proportion of elderly persons that constitute our population—surely, it's important for us to take cognizance of that and to arrange our services accordingly. Transportation services, for instance, continue to be developed with very little regard for the number of elderly and handicapped among us. Home care services have not been reasonably expanded in keeping with the need for such services.

Let me remind you, according to a recent article, the percentage of institutionalized elderly people in Ontario is approximately nine per cent and that compares with a figure of about five per cent in the United States and the United Kingdom, and an overall figure for Canada of seven per cent. Of course, that figure itself is, to some extent, raised by Ontario's contribution.

Institutionalization of our elderly is a very short-sighted, very cruel and very mean way of dealing with this increase in that proportion of the population. Surely, we need to show a little more imagination in obtaining and creating home care services, visiting services, shopping services and cleaning services so that the elderly can stay in their own home or in the homes of their families.

The tendency in our province, and of course in North America generally, has been for families to form up in their early days of procreation and then go off to live by themselves. The children, in this way, are in many instances denied the benefits of another generation at home—aunts, uncles and grandparents. This doesn't serve either the older people or the children very well. The continuity in life tends to be lost.

One of the reasons for the feeling of alienation that I've noticed in some of my work before entering this realm of politics, has been the feeling that somehow the individual does not see himself, or herself, against the whole background of the life

cycle. I would think, therefore, there are many things we should be doing with a view to getting families to stay together longer if possible. I would think that tax credits for those people who take care of their elderly relatives at home, rather than institutionalizing them, would make a great deal of sense.

I would ask, in a very constructive way, that the government give very serious consideration, both at the provincial and the federal level, to that type of scheme. People find, as some of my constituents find, that they want to keep an elderly relative at home but they don't know what to do when it comes time for a vacation. They want to go away for a couple of weeks and they have nobody to leave the relative with, or they feel that it's a burden if they have to be there all the time and they just can't ever get away.

It seems to me with a little more money, with a little consideration, with the availability of the types of home care services that I have spoken of, it would be possible to have people come in, as it were to baby sit—not to use the term disparagingly—to take care of the elderly person at home.

I feel our society has this youth orientation, which is most unfortunate. We are developing in the community colleges thousands of people who are so-called child care workers. While I do not disparage that particular group of professionals or para-professionals, surely the emphasis should be on developing geriatric care workers. That is the population proportion that is increasing. The number of youngsters is actually decreasing as a percentage of our population. The same goes in the medical schools. We do not have the geriatric specialist, whereas we are still producing pediatricians at a ludicrous rate, given the declining birth rate in the province and in the country.

Many of these things are not the fault of the province and I am not listing them here in order to lay blame or point the finger of blame in any way, but simply to say that we as a Legislature, particularly in a minority situation, can work together to remedy some of these situations, some of these great difficulties, if only the will were there to do so.

Let me say a few words, Mr. Speaker, on the subject of food lands. I think it is well understood by those who have studied the matter that there is really no immediate crisis, in the usual sense of the word, as far as food lands are concerned. There is no danger of starvation in Ontario for now or for the foreseeable future. In fact, even if we didn't have any food land here, I suspect

we could import food at a price not utterly outrageous. That is not the point.

The point is that the future demands that we keep available this excellent resource we have—our food land and our productive farmer—that we keep that available for future use. When I say we must keep it available for future use, I have in mind, Mr. Speaker, the fact that any decline in the average temperature, just as an example, could radically change the productivity of our food lands in this province. I have in mind the fact that any change in the price of fertilizer could make very big economic changes in terms of the use of our food lands in this province. I have in mind the fact that food may well be a very important export for this province 20 years from now.

I know that at the moment it is difficult to think of exporting food to the third world and so on because of the fact that they don't have money to pay for it and all the difficulties in transportation, but these may pale in significance 20 years from now. We may well find that food is for us, in a sense—to be a little over simplistic about it—what oil is to the OPEC nations. Why we should therefore squander and waste the resource we have, the best arable land in the province of Ontario, why we should waste that is beyond me.

Let me put one more fact before you and it was touched on in the speech of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) yesterday. We should realize, Mr. Speaker, that energy crops may well turn out to be the most important use of so-called food land 20 or 25 years from now or maybe even sooner than that.

Not only wood and milkweed, which are well known energy crops, but many other types of crops produce hydrocarbons which are almost competitive this very day with commercially available gasoline. It's terribly important therefore that we recognize that the energy crops, just as any other crops, will grow best and most productively on the best land.

So long as other land is available it does not make sense to use our prime agricultural land for the purpose of urbanization or for its use by other public agencies for highways, airports, hydro corridors, waste disposal sites and so on. I think therefore that it's extremely important that we develop a real policy in this Legislature to the preservation of our best food land.

I know that the land is still there despite many types of rural non-farm use. I am well

aware of the Treasurer's (Mr. McKeough's) point of view that the rain still falls on the land and the wind is blowing on it and so on. I have heard all that.

Mr. Wildman: A little hot air.

Mr. S. Smith: But in fact when you start dividing up the land with the corridors and with the roads and with buildings here and there, the chances of those small parcels of land ever coming back into proper production are very remote. I think we have to face the realities, therefore, that it's terribly important that we emphasize the preservation of the agricultural land that we have.

I feel that we have to have, first of all, an inventory of all food lands. I think that has been called for in the past and it's shocking that we don't have it now. And that must include, not just soil classifications of many years ago; it must include such matters as heat units, proximity to market, the amount of sunshine and so on. And this must designate not just food lands but recreational forest lands and other special types of lands that are available—wet lands and so on.

Hon. W. Newman: I am glad you are reading from my report.

Mr. S. Smith: We must have an immediate inventory, but in addition to that it seems to me that we require mandatory designation of the most significant food lands. This mandatory designation should be available to be appealed to a tribunal with expertise, but no appeal should be permitted unless it has rigorously been proved that no alternative is available for the particular project or use that is recommended, that no alternative is available on non-food land. In other words, the burden of proof must be on the municipality that wants to make a change in its official plan to prove that it has to use that farmland, that food land, and that no alternative is available. It seems to me that we have to be very strict about this.

I do not, at this moment, favour a rigid freeze, but I do feel that we should have a very strict, mandatory designation. I feel that it's very important, once we arrive at a plan which takes into account the preservation of these lands, for the regions, the counties, the municipalities, to have a fair amount of autonomy within the plan to make the kinds of changes that at the present time they have to go to the OMB about.

I think we need a special policy with regard to urban fringe areas; a buffer zone so to speak, between the urban and the rural. I

feel that there is an important role as well, of course, for the federal government; and I feel that tariffs to protect our food growers are essential.

The present government has, from time to time, spoken of an interest in these matters, but let's look at some of the examples of their behaviour. Because, you know, by their deeds shall they be known, not by their green papers.

When you look at Niagara and you take the regional planners in that area and the work that they were doing: I've spoken to these planners; I've gone over with them on their diagrams, acre by acre, the land that was included in former urban boundaries, the land that they were suggesting be included in the new urban boundaries. In each instance when I asked them what guidance they had from the government during the planning process the answer was "zero."

When they wanted to know from the government whether the government really felt that the municipal sewage treatment plants had to have the number of houses originally projected in order to make those things viable, they got no answer. When they wanted to know whether or not the Queen Elizabeth Highway would be expanded right in the middle of the northern part of the peninsula where the best land was, they got no answer. When they wanted to know what kind of help they could get in order to redirect growth onto some of the less desirable, less productive lands, they were given no assistance; no dollar figures were mentioned.

They had nothing that they could use as a weapon in their discussions with the small municipalities. They would go as planners to the small municipalities of Niagara, and the people in the small municipalities would insist that they needed some growth to pay for the sewage plant or whatever. They had nothing they could use as a weapon against those people because the provincial government gave no guidance and no support.

Look at the parkway belt exemption. Look at 900 acres of class 1 agricultural land east of Milton, 500 or 600 acres of that already zoned for agriculture and exempted from the parkway belt—these are owned by the Shipp Corporation—exempted from the parkway belt on the basis of hardship to the company.

[4:00]

We have the example of Barrie. If you watched Global television last night you know, Mr. Speaker, that the government—the Ontario Municipal Board to be more accurate

—is hearing an application by Barrie to annex some land in Innisfil township. I think you know that included in that land are about 7,000 acres of class 1 land, the best in Ontario. I think you know that that land is south of Barrie and development there will therefore force additional pressure on that excellent agricultural land yet farther to the south. And more development pressure between Barrie and Toronto is bound to result from this. I think you know that that is where some of our best land is located.

You are aware, Mr. Speaker, that the Treasurer has sent a letter or two to the Ontario Municipal Board—and my colleague the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Good) has already asked about that particular letter—suggesting that 125,000 people is the population the government desires for Barrie. It is government policy to have that population there. I think you know that the Ontario Municipal Board has now stopped its hearings while it discusses the propriety of that letter. I don't intend to discuss that because I understand it's before the courts.

I think you are also aware, Mr. Speaker that Innisfil township has recommended another parcel of land which would spare a good many thousands of acres of class 1 farm land and which would direct the growth for Barrie onto other land, some of which is much less productive. It would also permit Innisfil to continue as a viable township, whereas if they lose all the land from the middle of the township, as in the present plan in the annexation proposal, I think you know that Innisfil would then be non-viable and either a form of regional government or a total annexation would be forced on the area in the Barrie region.

I feel it is really a very unfortunate day for Ontario that 7,000 acres of class 1 land should be proposed for annexation and for urbanization when there is a very reasonable alternative available. I am not accusing anybody of wrongdoing, I want to be very clear about that; I am, however, less than convinced by the Barrie annexation proposal, in particular because of the fact that the planners who developed that proposal were also the consulting engineers on the proposal for the precise parcel of land submitted by the chief developers in the area who stand to gain by the annexation proposals.

The diagrams for land use that were drawn for the South Simcoe Estates proposal to Innisfil township are very similar to the diagrams for land use drawn in the Barrie annexation proposal. Personally, I was rather surprised to find in the Barrie annexation pro-

posal a passage which says that one of the reasons that particular land should be annexed and should be developed is because it is in the hands of developers and because, as the proposal says, developers usually take the time and trouble to do a study to find out which is the best land for development. When you consider, Mr. Speaker, that it was the same people who said this who were the consulting engineers for the developers, it is an interesting form of praise.

I am not going to go into the list, which you have probably heard before, Mr. Speaker, as to how the matter is being argued in front of the OMB. Let me just say that I am shocked by what's going on there. I think the government should be standing up to save that farm land, not intervening to try to permit its rape. In fact, I await with interest the letter promised me by the Minister of Agriculture and Food, a letter sent from his own food lands division to the Treasury protesting the proposal for annexation.

Mr. Cassidy: Does the Liberal Party agree with you on that?

Mr. Nixon: I'll bet the Treasurer slapped the minister's wrist about that letter.

Mr. Cassidy: Didn't your party vote against protecting farm lands just a month ago at the provincial convention?

Mr. Roy: Did the member for Ottawa Centre just wake up?

Mr. Ruston: How is his house? Is he still renting it out?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Let's have some order, please. The member for Hamilton West has the floor.

Mr. S. Smith: I want to turn now to what is probably the most important matter facing us in Ontario, and that's the state of the Ontario economy.

Ontario's economy is sick. We suffer from high unemployment, high inflation, underutilization in our manufacturing industries, stagnation in our mining industry and widespread lack of confidence among consumers and businessmen alike.

Things are not getting better in Ontario. If one looks at our manufacturing sector, one realizes that we are not competitive with the rest of the world. And it's not going to get better. One also must recognize that as the west makes more economic demands on Canada, on Confederation generally, that most of these economic demands in one form or

another, either in the form of high energy prices, changes in transportation rates or a shifting of the manufacturing sector out there, one way or another, ultimately are going to hurt our manufacturing sector.

The negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, just about to go on, are not going to help Ontario one iota. It's evident that more and more pressure will come on Ontario from the third world, from developing nations, to permit access of their manufactured goods into our country and our province. We are facing a real crisis—a crisis in confidence and a crisis in reality.

Last week's issue of Ontario Finances provides perhaps the clearest indication of the extent to which our economy is underperforming. Because of unemployment and under-employment, personal income tax revenues are \$172 million below the budget. As a result of lack of consumer confidence, retail sales tax revenues are \$107 million below the budget. The crisis in our mines is reflected in mining profit taxes that yielded only 42 per cent of what they were budgeted for. And the weak markets, high costs and general uncertainty which have plagued our businessmen have resulted in a shortfall of \$95 million in corporate income tax revenues for the province.

A fifth of our capacity in manufacturing stands idle. Our economy is in trouble, and there is not the slightest sign of improvement. Businessmen still lack confidence. Of 1,212 Ontario businessmen questioned recently by the Bank of Montreal, 46 per cent planned less capital spending this year than last, 81 per cent expected business would not improve this year. Consumer confidence is also low: Gallup reported that 54 per cent of its Ontario respondents believe that their standard of living is either stagnant or declining.

Despite this bleak economic outlook and despite the fact that we brought all these matters to the attention of the Treasurer during the debate on his so-called mini-budget, the Treasurer persists in his claim that Ontario's economy will experience real growth of five per cent in 1977. If he believes that figure, then he is fooling himself. If he does not, then it's time that we saw an honest figure. The Conference Board in Canada has revised its prediction to a more realistic growth rate of 2.9 per cent.

We believe in the Liberal Party that the most important challenge facing us is to repair our economy. The government and the Treasurer must acknowledge the extent of

the problems that we face and then take decisive steps to spur economic growth to take up this slack. It's a sad comment on this government's fiscal mismanagement and lack of foresight that at this time of slow economic growth and high unemployment, the government is trapped by a series of record-breaking deficits and expensive spending habits. In this so-called year of restraint, government spending is up by almost 12 per cent and the budget has been overspent by \$55 million. A prudent government, a government which had cut back spending and deficits during times of prosperity, would not now be so limited in its ability to overcome an economic slowdown.

Mr. Cassidy: Like the federal Liberals, eh?

Mr. S. Smith: Yes, absolutely right.

There is no manoeuvring room left. The per capita net debt in Ontario has mushroomed from \$185 in 1970, the last year of Mr. Robarts, to \$708 in 1977.

Some hon. members: Shame.

Mr. S. Smith: Spending has climbed at an average annual rate of 15.8 per cent from 1970, from \$4.3 billion to \$11.8 billion. The people of Ontario pay \$2.4 million every day just for interest on the provincial debt.

By constant overspending and extraordinary deficits, this government has foolishly restricted the manoeuvring room that it needs now to foster economic growth and reduce unemployment. The inflation which the government spending practices have reinforced has eroded consumer confidence in purchasing power, contributed to high interest rates, and in that way depressed the housing industry and raised corporate borrowing costs. It has created illusory inventory profits on which businesses have had to pay very real taxes.

This party, especially under my predecessor, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), has consistently warned of the dangers of high government spending, but the government has not heeded our warning and Ontario's 316,000 unemployed are now paying the price.

No concern is greater than the urgent need for new job creation in Ontario. Eight per cent of our work force is unemployed. Three hundred and sixteen thousand men and women cannot find jobs in the province of opportunity. Our free enterprise system cannot exist without opportunities for individual enterprise and achievement, and those opportunities begin with a job. To me it is

inconsistent with our beliefs to suggest that eight per cent unemployment is an acceptable price to pay in the fight against inflation. To me it is neither acceptable nor necessary. Every willing and able citizen in our province has a right to employment, a right which has been abridged by the inadequate economic policies of our provincial and federal governments.

Mr. Speaker, let me put it to you this way: Free enterprise is something I believe in very deeply, but that system cannot survive if we bring up a generation of young people who are not given the opportunity to work, who are discouraged from hard work, from investing their time and effort and enthusiasm in using their educations and their talents to produce and to accomplish things. And if young people who are working can't look forward to the purchase of their own home, which for most people is the only stake they have in our economy, how can free enterprise survive?

Surely the need for more challenge in our schools, the need to emphasize hard work and risk taking and competitiveness is all important, but certainly the opportunity to work has to come before anything else. If people are not working, and if all industry is in the hands of just a few large companies, and if people don't sense they have that feeling of opportunity, it isn't going to matter to them a hoot whether those large companies have shares traded on the stock exchange or are owned by the government. It won't mean anything to them, and free enterprise has no chance of survival under those circumstances. Jobs for our young people are essential and the health of the small business sector is essential as well, and I will get to that in a moment.

Mr. Martel: Darcy, you are destroying free enterprise.

Mr. S. Smith: You are right. That is the first true word you have said in some time.

Mr. Martel: Hurray. I congratulate the minister.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Wedding bells, wedding bells.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: How come you are not supporting him?

Mr. Breaugh: It is downright subversive.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. S. Smith: Since the beginning of this year we have experienced layoffs and cut-backs across this province, including: the Ford Motor Company in Talbotville laid off 2,500 workers in January; American Motors in Brampton, 1,200 workers in January; Wabasso in Dunnville cut back its towel plant to 57 per cent capacity and laid off 60 workers; Willroy Mines announced closure of the Manitouwadge mine, eliminating 176 jobs; B.F. Goodrich closing its cellular products plant in Bramalea, laying off 100.

Today there are more unemployed workers in Ontario than the combined total populations of Brampton and Chatham and Oakville and Sault Ste. Marie and Brockville and Kenora. Presently Ontario's unemployment rate is rising faster than is the case in other parts of Canada. Between January and February of this year alone the number of unemployed in Ontario rose by six per cent compared to an increase of 4.2 per cent in the rest of Canada. In the past year the number unemployed in Ontario has grown by 20.6 per cent compared with 14.5 per cent in the rest of Canada. In the last half of 1976, our vacancy rate was lower than the national rate.

We are lagging behind the rest of Canada in the critical fight against unemployment; city by city, as was outlined by the Leader of the Opposition—unemployment in Hamilton, 7.3 per cent; London, 7.4 per cent; Sudbury, 7.7 per cent; Ottawa, 9.8 per cent; and, Windsor, 10 per cent.

[4:15]

Interjection.

Mr. S. Smith: In the construction industry, workers face the grim paradox of record high unemployment and record low residential vacancy rates. In Toronto, unemployment in the construction industry is 34 per cent, yet the desperate need for new construction is obvious from an apartment vacancy rate of 1.0 per cent. In Sault Ste. Marie nearly 80 per cent of the construction workers are unemployed while the apartment vacancy rate rests at 0.2 per cent.

Mr. Wildman: That is what the Minister of Housing has done for his own riding.

Mr. S. Smith: As with the economy generally, the Treasurer has so far refused to recognize the extent of Ontario's unemployment problem. In defiance of all the evidence he clings to his prediction of six per cent unemployment for 1977. The Conference Board in Canada has more realistically predicted seven per cent.

More fundamentally, the Treasurer has indicated that he seems prepared to overlook the frustration, the bitterness, the disillusionment and the shocking waste of human resources represented by the unemployed. On behalf of the 316,000 men and women in Ontario who are this afternoon knocking at the doors of factories and offices but finding no work, I urge the Treasurer to reconsider and to recognize that we urgently need new job opportunities in Ontario.

Particularly, as I said earlier the need is great among young people. Our unemployment rate among workers under 25 years of age is 14.8 per cent. Those under 20—19 per cent are unemployed; 143,000 young Ontarians, more than the combined populations of Brampton and Chatham, cannot find work.

Mr. Bullbrook: That really hits home.

Mr. S. Smith: In my own constituency office I have people with all levels of education—grade nine, grade 13, MAs, PhDs—unable to find work. The bitterness, the hopelessness, the frustration which these people indicate to me is something which is simply intolerable.

I get the feeling that we have broken faith with our young people. We push them through high school and nurse them through various educational opportunities and then we dump them on the labour market to rot like so many surplus vegetables. This is a time when they should be achieving a measure of independence and one in five of our workers under 20 cannot find a job.

We cannot abandon them. The Treasurer, in his budget, must offer hope and jobs to counteract the despair, the fear and the disillusionment of 143,000 jobless young people.

Now let me be clear. There are a few things that we probably should not do. Massive government spending increases would ultimately be counterproductive by once again overheating the economy. Our objective must be to pick up the slack in our economy, not add to the inflationary pressure.

Investment incentives do not make much sense to me at a time of only 81 per cent utilization in our manufacturing industries, because I fear that they will not be used for expansion and new job creation but rather for so-called modernization which, in the short to medium run—and maybe even in the long run—will simply replace more workers with machines.

Several significant job creation moves can be taken without significant spending in-

crease. The Treasurer should consider a cut in personal income taxes to stimulate consumer spending, to restore consumer confidence and to reduce pressure for wage increases as we begin to phase out controls. The tax decrease should be restricted to those under \$15,000 annually, those who are under the greatest pressure and who will spend that money.

Steps should be taken to speed up the Ontario Municipal Board hearings on Toronto's downtown plan. Mr. Speaker, you know I've spoken on this in the House, I've asked some questions of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry). It is absolutely inconceivable to me that the Ontario Municipal Board should be meeting in Toronto on the downtown plan of Toronto, with tens of millions of dollars of construction projects ready to go, with 34 per cent unemployment in the construction industry; and if this board should be meeting six hours a day, four days a week, should be taking off the month of July for holidays, should be taking off a week at Easter—this is absolutely inconceivable. This is a time of emergency. Surely more commissioners can be appointed. Surely they can sit longer hours. Surely they can sit five- or five-and-a-half-day weeks. This is a very crucial time in our economy and surely we can get the red tape moving more swiftly.

I feel the government should, through its own channels and through the federal government, be pressing the United States to restore tax deductions for Americans attending conventions in Canada. Six major conventions cancelled their plans to meet in Toronto in the first two months of this year because of the elimination of the tax deduction. Each convention delegate would bring an average of \$250 to spend in our economy. They create largely unskilled jobs in hotels, restaurants and other tourist facilities, and these are very necessary.

In addition to obtaining that change, and I would imagine that the United States might be well disposed toward such representations, the government should also facilitate the construction of a new convention centre in downtown Toronto. A convention centre committee established by Metro Chairman Godfrey is to report this week on means of financing such a centre and on alternative sites in downtown Toronto. The Ontario government should not let that report gather dust like so many others do. In the short term we need the construction jobs; in a longer term our hotels and our tourist industry require a boost.

For young people, special measures and new approaches are required. I'm convinced that we must institute dramatic structural changes to our economy. But to confront the immediate problems I urge the government to consider the establishment of an Ontario youth service, with the objective of spurring employment for young people in both the public and private sectors. To create jobs for young people in the public sector, the Ontario youth service would supplement unemployment insurance benefits now received by unemployed youth. The federal government has already shown interest in greater flexibility for UIC funds and is now participating in a job creation project in Newfoundland, which Ontario should study very carefully. A supplement of \$10 per week would create 100,000 jobs for only \$50 million. That's no more than the over-expenditure in the Treasurer's own ministry this year.

In order to implement the youth service as quickly as possible, public sector jobs should initially be created in provision of in-home services for elderly people in our society, which as I said earlier would allow them to continue leading independent lives outside institutions. The potential government cost saving is enormous. Ontario youth services could also assist, of course, with home maintenance, cleaning, meal preparation and so on.

There must be a new approach to apprenticeship in the province of Ontario. The government must move forward to encompass many of our unemployed youth in a new form of apprenticeship so that they can get on-the-job training and so that they can come off the unemployment rolls.

The overwhelming majority of our young people want to work and it's up to us in the Legislature to give them that opportunity.

Let's turn to some other aspects of our economy, Mr. Speaker. The Conservative government has neglected our natural resources in such a shocking and shameful manner that you could hardly believe that they pride themselves on the so-called protection of the wealth-creating part of our economy.

It is inconceivable but true that our fishing industry is now virtually dead; it is certainly dying. In forestry we have the terrible neglect of reforestation, which has threatened our entire forest industry by the year 2010. And in mining there has not been a new mine opened up this year and there is nothing on the drawing board whatsoever.

Mr. Haggerty: That's for the last couple of years.

Mr. S. Smith: We have the Throne Speech promising to increase reforestation. It's just not believable. Consider: In March 1973 the Throne Speech stated, "The House will be asked to approve a programme designed to increase my government's activity in forest management. This expanded programme includes the regeneration of cut-over land." That was in March 1973.

Again, in November 1975 the Minister of Natural Resources stated: "Our forest management efforts must be greatly intensified." But no programme was introduced. Finally, in August 1976 the Ontario Professional Foresters Association held a conference "to present information on the rapid depletion of Ontario's forests and the urgent need for improved management and resources renewal." In 1972 the area of cut-over Crown land was approximately 345,000 acres, of which 178,000 acres were left unregenerated. They were the same kind of figures in 1973. The 1974 figures show 170,000 acres, and in 1975 there were 65,000 acres left unreforested. The industry that has been so important to Ontario, the forestry industry—the pulp and paper industry—is dying because of neglect by the government.

Look at the mining industry. Let me quote from the Northern Miner 10 days ago: "Ontario mining is heading for an eventual decline unless there is a marked change in the province's investment climate and policy towards high-risk exploration ventures." We have asked over and over again in the House when the government plans to move to change the Ontario Securities Commission regulations to allow exploration moneys to be found. We still are waiting for such changes to be brought in, despite the many promises.

Why doesn't the government go and do airborne geophysical survey work in the way it was done in Quebec, because that then provides a spur and a basis on which individual prospectors and small companies can establish themselves and go over the claim areas which are found to be promising from the airborne surveys? Basically, the Natural Resources ministry has been a very weak spot and we hope that the new minister will do better.

Mr. Lawlor: Why not a Crown corporation?

Mr. Cassidy: They don't believe in that.

Mr. Lawlor: That is not free enterprise.

Mr. S. Smith: With regard to small business—and I really hope that those people in the Conservative government who say they care about free enterprise will understand—

small business has an enormous job-creating capacity. It can create jobs immediately, unlike large industries which require quite a long lead time before they can create work, the small business sector can create jobs right away. It has been estimated that small firms can create jobs for approximately a cost of \$5,000 per work place, whereas in the larger industries it may require anywhere from \$70,000 to several hundred thousand dollars for each work place, depending on the industry.

At present, Ontario's small businesses suffer from a lack of adequate financing. Sources of equity capital are few, often because the rate of return does not justify the risk. Debt financing is hard to obtain. The government must therefore address itself to these problems—not by regulation and control, of which there's already too much, but by measures aimed at self-sufficiency of small business.

Why has this government not declared very simply and plainly that the government will obligate itself to purchase a certain percentage of all its goods and services from the small, owner-managed sector of Ontario's economy? Why has this government not instituted a policy whereby any contract it enters into with large corporations has as a clause the subcontracting of a certain percentage of that work to benefit the small business sector of this province, the owner-managed enterprises of Ontario? That has been done in the United States. It could be done here. Those people, the small business people, can create jobs more rapidly and in a more decentralized manner, particularly in the smaller centres of Ontario.

The government has other measures to take. I urge the Treasurer to consider paying the payroll taxes for each additional worker employed by a firm, in a given year, up to a net gain in manpower of 10 persons for a three-year period.

[4:30]

The matter of housing: I think you know, Mr. Speaker, that Liberals believe that every person in this province who has worked for a reasonable period of time should have the opportunity of purchasing his own home on the open market. Where is this government's commitment to affordable housing? Where, for that matter, is its commitment to any kind of housing?

Housing starts in Ontario declined from 110,000 in 1973 to 79,900 in 1975. Preliminary statistics for 1976 indicate that the total housing starts in urban Ontario in 1976 increased only four per cent over the pre-

vious year; while total housing starts in urban Canada, as a whole, increased 15 per cent. We're lagging behind in every sector of our economy.

In 1961, Mr. Speaker, 69 per cent of all Ontario families could finance the purchase of an average Ontario resale home, sold through a real estate broker, and still spend less than the recommended one-quarter of their gross income for principal and interest payments—even in those days when incomes were much lower. In 1971, 58 per cent of families could still finance the average resale house. By 1974, only 24 per cent of families could afford to do so, and that figure is even lower today.

Now we have the wonderful programme that the Hon. Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) has announced, in which the AHOP and HOME programmes are going to be combined. He announced yet another programme of this kind—where the programme applies only to new housing selling below a modest amount established by the federal government. This ranges from a maximum of \$47,000 in Toronto to a maximum of \$34,000 in many other municipalities. I think you know that under this programme all purchasers receive a loan reducing the effective mortgage interest rate to eight per cent, which loan must be repaid at the beginning of the seventh year.

The rare purchaser who qualifies for the maximum subsidy in the first year will receive a rude awakening when he must repay the loan. One senior trust company executive has calculated that mortgage payments would jump from \$160 per month to \$440 a month a few years later, leading to difficulties in obtaining mortgages under the plan due to fear of foreclosure. We have not seen that refuted. In fact, it's interesting that the provincial government hasn't shown any long-term payment schedule that would allow the new programme to be judged intelligently.

The former Treasurer, John White, announced that a provincial plan was being prepared in 1974. We're still waiting for it. No overall provincial plan has yet been released. This lack of provincial leadership has encouraged uncertainty and speculation and has, I submit to you, been one of the factors in the growing cost of housing and the reduction of the production of housing in Ontario.

What about the great land banking scheme? My heavens, those schemes in themselves ought to be enough to bring down a government under any normal circumstances. After years of criticism by Liberal MPPs, the Minister of Housing has admitted that much of

the criticism of the massive land banking programme was valid. He has stated that the remaining 23,000 acres held by the ministry will now be sold at market value, according to the *Globe and Mail* of March 8.

We agree that the minister should abandon this ill-conceived and ill-administered programme; however, the Liberals would ensure that the land needed for housing would be sold below market value as quickly as possible in order to reduce the price of serviced lots generally; and land not required for housing would be sold to farmers in order that it be put to its most productive agricultural use.

You know we have a situation like this in Hamilton, Mr. Speaker—and I have spoken on this before. We have in the Saltfleet area and in the mountain area thousands of acres owned by the government, directly or indirectly. They allow these housing lots to come on the market in dribs and drabs, one at a time, just as the most proficient speculator in Ontario would do. They set it at market value, or very close to market value—and there are some instances where the government actually led the market value. In that way those who would build houses for any of the assisted home ownership programmes find that they are restricted to building houses of inferior quality in order that the total price, given the arbitrarily set price for the land and the price for the house put on the land, be within the limit set by whatever the assisted home programme happens to be.

If the government would have the heart, the decency and the intelligence to flood the market with serviced land, and arbitrarily set the price lower, depress the price of the lots used on these assisted home programmes, a better house could be built for the same purchase price. These things would not then turn into slums, as is a risk some years from now, but would in fact be the best quality housing available.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: What about the private construction industry?

Mr. Breithaupt: You are not helping it.

Mr. S. Smith: The Minister of the Environment has roused himself to ask me about the private building industry. The private building industry is quite happy to build high quality homes on those lots, but they are forced to put up a house worth, for instance, \$19,000, because the lot itself is valued, for instance, at \$20,000 and the total price can only be \$39,000 or \$40,000.

If the government would value the lot at \$15,000, they could put on a house worth \$24,000 in terms of building and sell it to the owner and the owner would get much better value for that; but this government is so frightened that the poor fellow who buys that house will make some type of windfall profit. I wish it would show the same fear about windfall profits in the Barrie area where tens of millions of dollars are going to be made by certain individuals.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: How do you know?

Mr. S. Smith: What is the government worried about? A few thousand dollars of house value that might accrue to a poor person who buys an assisted home in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Amalgamation doesn't mean urbanization.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: That's the new man.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Peterson: You have got all your heavy hecklers over there I see.

Mr. Breithaupt: Just one.

Mr. S. Smith: A Liberal government would encourage reasonable expansion of existing communities instead of building expensive new towns on productive farm land.

I would like now, Mr. Speaker, to address just a few remarks on the matter of children's services, particularly in various non-institutional placements which we might collectively refer to as group homes. I think you know that starting back in May of last year we on this side, and I in particular, went after the report of the ministry that we knew was in existence and turns out to have been in existence for about two years now—a report documenting the chaos and the shambles in the children's mental health services and the children's group home services generally.

Finally we are getting a little bit of action from the government. We are pleased to see that. There are three good things that the government is doing. One is the appointment of Judge Thomson, and we certainly applaud that appointment. He is an excellent person and we certainly wish him well in his new duties.

The second reasonable thing is to bring all the group homes under one ministry, and we have been recommending that since last May or June.

The other good thing is that committees are being set up to take care of assessment and placement co-ordination in each community. We think that's a good idea, depending on how the local agencies are involved in the make-up of these committees.

There still are a number of questions, however. Firstly, will the local government still be expected to pay an ever-increasing amount of money toward the cost of court-ordered-children's boarding home placement? The local communities have had to pick up an extra tab in this regard, while the province has escaped from certain of its own responsibilities.

We also want to know whether there will be a case audit, so that we have some idea of the children presently in our vast facilities, whether they really need to be there and whether they are obtaining the kinds of services best suited to their particular problem. The report admits very clearly that there has been neither rhyme nor reason in many of these placements.

I also feel that the government has not dealt with, and I hope they will, the matter of labour conditions among the workers in the field of child care. Many of these people are among the most underpaid, overworked people in Ontario, and surely they deserve better consideration.

In our own policy paper, which we draw to the government's attention, entitled *Care and Treatment of Disturbed and Troubled Children in Ontario—Proposal for Change and Reform*, we make some recommendations in this regard.

We also feel it's necessary for the provincial government to come to grips with the matter of zoning for group homes. Many areas in built-up municipalities are resisting group home operation because they feel that other areas are not taking their fair share, and that certain areas are being loaded down with excessive numbers of group homes. Whatever the reasons for these objections, the provincial government has a role to play by calling together all the municipal organizations, the municipal governments, and seeing to it that each municipality takes its share of non-institutional placements.

A few words on education: I feel very proud of the contribution that we made in the Liberal Party on the subject of education, and I am pleased to see that there have been some movements in the direction that we have outlined. I feel that the tragic destruction of any form of stiff challenge, the destruction of a sense of hard work and competitiveness in our system, which I must lay

right at the feet of the Premier during his days as Minister of Education; that all that has been a tragic loss to Ontario.

But we are still waiting to hear from the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) just when he is going to start to introduce standards of measurement, standards by which you can measure attainment. Pupils need to have a periodic basis of measuring their development, and parents need to have realistic views on the ability and progress of their children. Teachers need to know about the success or otherwise of their teaching methods; administrators and taxpayers need to know about how their system is doing.

We are still waiting for province-wide standards—and dare I use the word examination—so that in fact there can be structure put into the curriculum of our public schools; structure which is very much necessary and which at the moment is available only, apparently, in certain school boards and in some of the private schools and some of the separate schools of this province. We await movement in that regard.

I would like to draw my remarks to a close by taking a few moments to discuss the matter of national unity, the crisis in Confederation. Back on December 16 I had the honour to address this Legislature and to make a number of remarks which stand and which, unfortunately in many ways, proved to be rather prophetic. In fact I am very troubled about what I see in front of us, although I must tell you that deep down I remain optimistic that our country can survive this crisis as a stronger and more unified country.

I must tell you that I do not have a conception of Canada which would be nine unilingual English provinces and one unilingual French one. That is not a conception of Canada that means very much to me. I would consider that an admission of total failure on a world scale.

I feel that it's important, first of all, that I make it clear that I ally myself and my party with the statement made yesterday by the Premier on the question of the proposed Quebec language charter. I agree also with the leader of the New Democratic Party when he noted in his remarks yesterday that it is important on such a major issue as that proposed charter that we try to speak with one voice.

[4:45]

The proposed charter is a very disturbing document for those of us who believe in a united, bilingual country. Surely what we are all seeking in Canada today is not an abridg-

ment of official language rights, but rather a widening and extension of rights and services.

It seems to me that there are some major issues that we need to address. The first is to ensure that, as I have been saying over the past few months, our own house is in order regarding the provision of official minority language rights. The second is to make clear to Mr. Levesque and his colleagues that he cannot have his cake and eat it too. I do not believe that he should be permitted to beguile the Quebec population into believing he can take Quebec out of Confederation and yet continue to reap all the economic advantages which Confederation brings.

Recently I spoke in Quebec, at the invitation of a French-speaking service club, and I should like to relate to the hon. members some remarks I made about what Ontario is doing, and to underline the further steps that the Liberal Party believes we should take.

I noted when I was there that during the course of my recent travels across the province of Ontario, Ontarians were asking what they can do provincially—on a provincial level—to help the cause of unity. My reply was and is that there are two things: The first is to show understanding of Quebec and an openness toward the French fact in this country. Secondly, I believe we should seek to ensure that all French-speaking Canadians feel first-class outside as well as inside Quebec.

In my view, Ontarians are responding positively to these approaches. I told my Quebec audience that it was important for them to realize that much has been accomplished in the last decade to improve the provision of bilingual government services throughout Ontario. While I was not satisfied that the progress was as great as it could have been, still there were today, at both the federal and provincial levels, a far greater range of bilingual services than those of 10 or 15 years ago.

Finally, I stated that I will strongly support the Premier on any initiatives his government undertakes to expand and improve the provision of bilingual services. By dealing fairly and justly with our respective language minorities in each province, I stated, we would demonstrate a tolerance and decency which would set an example for the world.

I want to congratulate the Premier, Mr. Speaker, on continuing to move up the level of Franco-Ontarian rights and services in Ontario, even though there is provocative action in the form of the white paper by the Parti Quebecois in Quebec to move their

minority rights in a downward direction. It takes courage not to respond to that kind of provocation from the Quebec government; it takes courage. And it is prudent to remember that the government there is not speaking for the average Quebecer when it curtails the rights of the English-speaking minority. It is being, I think, deliberately provocative, and I am pleased that the Premier has shown the courage to continue the movement in Ontario toward more minority rights, not fewer.

I think it's important that we move very swiftly; and as I've said before, it is important that we come up at least to the level of what the anglophones in Quebec enjoy. I think it is very important to recognize that rights are rights; and I agree with the Premier that they should not be limited by what some other province happens to be doing for its minority.

Rights should be expanded because they should be expanded, not simply because of what is happening elsewhere. But it is important politically that we bring our own francophone Ontario minority up very quickly, so that Mr. Levesque cannot use the excuse that certain rights and services are absent in Ontario as an excuse for taking them away in Quebec.

I think Mr. Levesque has gone even further with his white paper.

I agree with the Premier entirely that even though we may lack certain services and certain rights in Ontario, at least a francophone family from Quebec can send their children to a French school. Certainly English schools should be available, as the Premier said, to Canadians who move into Quebec from other provinces. There's no question about that.

I think it's also important that the people in Ontario should understand that we still do have a fair amount of catching up to do. With all the publicity given to the white paper—a paper which I deplore—people may believe that in fact we already have a very high level of service and rights available to our francophone population. It's important that we admit that we still have a way to go, but that we're working hard on catching up.

I appreciate the government has done a great deal at the elementary and secondary levels of education. I appreciate they're going to try to resolve the Essex county situation. I think, however, that we must move with more dispatch on French-language post-secondary education. When you consider the post-secondary opportunities in the

French language that are available in Ontario, they certainly need improvement. Also French-language health and related services and French-language court services all must be expanded as rapidly as possible.

Believe me, Mr. Speaker, the Premier will find both opposition parties are ready to respond affirmatively to solid initiatives in these areas. I can assure the Premier, and I hope that somehow or other he does hear of these remarks today, that he will have my wholehearted co-operation in his efforts to remain determined to expand the rights and the services to our Franco-Ontarian population and to expand the teaching of French to those in the English-speaking community in Ontario. We believe it should start at least in grade one, and we hope he'll move in that direction.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, we feel the Speech from the Throne contains many positive indications of movement in the right direction. We feel minority government has been working reasonably well for the people of Ontario.

Mr. Cassidy: That's not what your speech said.

Mr. Mancini: Go back to sleep, Michael.

Mr. S. Smith: We feel the government deserves to have its opportunity to bring in a budget, a budget which must address itself to the fact that Ontario's economy is very sick, is really ailing, and there is a desperate need to provide jobs, particularly for the young people of Ontario.

We will support any reasonable initiative of this government towards those ends. We have tried to be constructive right from the start. We intend to continue being constructive, and we hope the government of Ontario will take those actions necessary to ensure that Ontario remains a genuine province of opportunity.

Mr. Acting Speaker: The hon. member for Leeds.

Mr. Bullbrook: What a let-down this is going to be.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Thank the opposition for the applause, Jim.

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, I must say I thought I would have stopped the applause more rapidly than that.

Mr. Kerrio: Take it any way you can get it, eh?

Hon. Mr. Auld: However, I thank you and begin by congratulating the hon. members for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. Johnson) and London North (Mr. Shore) for their excellent contributions to this debate.

In the Speech from the Throne, Her Honour outlined the many important programmes which the government will be undertaking.

Mr. Sargent: Important?

Hon. Mr. Auld: I should like to take a few minutes at this time to describe how the work of the Management Board will assist in carrying out those programmes. The primary objective of the Management Board in co-ordinating the implementation of government programmes is to ensure all the necessary budgetary personnel and administrative systems are in place so that all programmes can be carried out in the most efficient and effective manner.

Mr. Sargent: What is your name?

Hon. Mr. Auld: Let me begin by describing the role of the Management Board in controlling government spending. The special issue of Ontario Finances released last week, effective March 31, reporting on the fourth quarter performance of the 1976 budget, indicates we have been successful in our efforts to keep expenditures within the original budget plans. The revised outlook of \$12,565 million is in fact \$11 million less than the original budget plan of \$12,576 million.

Mr. Cassidy: That is what Darcy said, too, but your budgetary spending is up. This is misleading.

Hon. Mr. Auld: Management Board was able to achieve this goal primarily as a result of the government's firm resolve to control expenditures within the spending levels announced by the Treasurer in the 1976 budget.

Mr. Cassidy: You are dissembling and camouflaging—

Mr. Sargent: That is the same speech you gave last year.

Hon. Mr. Auld: The hon. member should read what I said.

Mr. Cassidy: He didn't see the speech until he got up in the House.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. There are altogether too many conversations being carried on.

Hon. Mr. Auld: Our task was made somewhat simpler by the commitment of all ministers and deputies to the control of expenditures—

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. members give the courtesy of listening to the hon. member for Leeds? There are too many conversations going on in the Legislature at this time.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: You are always demanding more spending, so what are you criticizing him for?

Mr. Cassidy: Your budgetary spending is out by—

Hon. Mr. Kerr: More and more.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: You are doing cartwheels and somersaults to try to say no.

Hon. Mr. Auld: Our task was made somewhat simpler by the commitment of all ministers and deputies to the control of expenditures—

Mr. Sargent: You are giving your budget-debate speech. This is your Throne-debate speech.

Hon. Mr. Auld: —and their co-operation in the reallocation of resources to meet unforeseen spending increases. I mentioned earlier that it was the board's responsibility to see that the necessary systems were in place to ensure efficient administration. For this reason, we introduced a new budget control system in 1976-77, consisting of, first, a commitment control system for capital expenditures and certain operating transfer payments; second, an intense monitoring of expenditures; and third, an early in-year review of open-ended programmes to identify signs of expenditure increase.

The increased emphasis on expenditure control has meant that within the revised expenditure outlook for 1976-77 of \$12,565 million, Management Board has been able to accommodate a total of \$372 million in unanticipated additional spending, without increasing the government's total spending level of \$12,576 million as announced in the 1976 budget. Most of the additional expenditures resulted from increased requirements for the operations of hospitals and senior citizens' facilities, for firefighting, community arenas, home renewal grants and various other programmes.

The improved expenditure controls, in place this year, permitted Management Board to fund these increases through offsetting constraints totalling \$383 million, which affected almost every ministry. I am pleased to be able to assure this House that it is with a similarly firm resolve we intend to continue our efforts in the coming year to control expenditures and to keep in-year spending increases to a minimum.

While on the topic of expenditure control I should like to resolve any misunderstandings that may exist with respect to the appropriate distribution of expenditures within the fiscal year. The Provincial Auditor's report on 1975-76 includes an analysis of total government expenditure by ministry and by month. Overall, 13 per cent of the province's spending took place in March 1976, the last month of our fiscal year. In some ministries higher percentages were experienced, up to 30.7 per cent in one instance. It is unfortunate if such statistics are interpreted as having some sinister connotation. Governments have been depicted as engaging in year-end spending sprees in an attempt to use up unspent allocations.

Mr. Conway: To say nothing about an election.

Hon. Mr. Auld: The facts clearly show that substantially all of these apparently heavy March expenditures are nothing more than reflections of events in the normal course of government business and of the government's accounting system. In fact, the comments appended to the Provincial Auditor's table describe some of these factors both in general and for specific ministries. None of his comments implies that a less than responsible approach was taken to year-end spending.

[5:00]

The relegation of a larger proportion of the year's expenditure to the month of March as opposed to other months, arises from three basic features which are built into Ontario's system. First, under The Financial Administration Act, payments made in April which pertain to goods and services received by the government in March of the preceding fiscal year are to be recorded as expenditures of the last month of the preceding fiscal year—March. This obviously is an addition to expenditures normally processed and paid within the month of March. Thus, the normal month's expenditures are for about 30 calendar days of business. However, in contrast, March expenditures represent up to two months spending for goods and services pro-

vided or rendered up to March 31 of that year.

Mr. Conway: He's sounding like Marvin Shore.

Hon. Mr. Auld: Second, consistent with the first point, the first provincial payroll in April normally includes pay in respect to the previous month and is thus charged to March expenditures. This results in the March salary cost including three payrolls rather than the normal two and could add as much as \$42 million to the month's salary expenditures. And, of course, it has a similar contra effect in April.

These first two features would suggest that the expenditures for the month of March should be somewhat higher than average and that those for the month of April should be lower than the average monthly expenditure. This is indeed the case, and is borne out by the statistics presented in the Provincial Auditor's report. It shows that for the month of March 1976, 13 per cent of the provincial spending took place, while only 5.8 per cent took place in April 1975, the first month of the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976.

Finally, certain expenditures, including some transfer payments, by custom or by formula tend to be heavier in March than other months of the year. For example, the government's 1975-76 payment of \$24.7 million in respect of unfunded liability was made to the public service superannuation fund in March 1976. In addition, almost one half of the \$32.5 million farm tax reduction programme for 1975-76 was recorded as March 1976 expenditure.

It seems clear that given these three factors the expenditures in March of any fiscal year are bound to be higher than those of other months. This is a totally normal situation, implies no mismanagement and is consistent with official government accounting policies.

The continuing emphasis on spending constraint has meant that the overall increase in government expenditures has barely kept pace with the rate of inflation. Given the ever-growing number of people who must be served by existing programmes, this has presented Management Board and the operating ministries with a severe challenge. On top of this, the board has had the additional problem of finding the resources to implement new programmes. Inevitably, this has led us to employ innovative management techniques which relate benefits to cost and measure the efficiency with which results are obtained.

As I told this House before, the Management Board is increasingly using management

by results, or MBR, as the basis upon which we make decisions about the resources required to operate programmes and monitors how these resources are used. The key elements in MBR are accountability and control. Under MBR, ministries are required to quantify the results which they expect to achieve from their programmes. After the board and the ministry have agreed on an appropriate level of funding and results for a particular programme, the ministry is held responsible to make periodic progress reports to the board. I am pleased to report to the House at this time that more than half of the government's 1977-78 estimates are on the management-by-results programme and the ministries have firm plans to increase this substantially during this next year.

Now let me comment briefly on the issues raised in the report of the Auditor General of Canada as far as the government of Canada is concerned. Members will recall that he was severely critical of the federal government's system of financial management and control and that the Auditor General called for the creation of a Controller General of Canada to restore good resource management in that government. In light of the publicity which this criticism has received, I want to assure this House that a similar situation emphatically does not exist in Ontario. Through the introduction of MBR the government has already taken action to ensure that there is no danger of its losing control over the public purse.

I mentioned Management Board's interest in improving the processes for the allocation and control of public funds. I want to refer specifically to one which appears to offer great promise. I'm speaking of zero base budgeting. Under this approach, very briefly, programmes are described in terms of the different levels of output and funding at which they can be operated, and the budget is established by ranking these units in order of priority. This technique was developed less than 10 years ago in the United States and since that time has received increasing attention by businesses and governments throughout North America. It has apparently been adopted by 11 state governments in the US and will soon be introduced, we are told, within the US federal government. In addition, hundreds of businesses in Canada and the US have recognized the benefits of this approach to budgeting and have implemented this system.

Zero base budgeting makes particular sense in Ontario since it is a logical extension of MBR. It ensures that all programmes receive

systematic scrutiny and that decisions on funding priority are made in terms of defined results to be achieved. Several pilot ministries have been selected to actually test the feasibility of zero base budgeting. During the next year, ministries will be asked to co-operate with the board in refining the technique with a view to introducing it as the basis for the preparation of the 1979-80 estimates.

Let me assure hon. members that the management systems within the Ontario government are under constant review by the Management Board. This review extends to the actual operations of all ministries. In fact, regular cyclical operational reviews are undertaken in ministries and agencies for the purpose of evaluating operating efficiency, management controls and compliance with administrative policy. Management Board will continue to emphasize and upgrade its operational review programme. We in the Management Board have, I believe, made a special effort ourselves to provide an example of an efficient, lean government organization. All of the expenditure-control-related activities I have just touched on, and more, are carried out by a total staff of only 81 people in the Management Board secretariat.

Let me spend a few minutes on the management of the public service. I would particularly like to bring to the attention of this House some of the changes that have occurred in the last short while concerning the employees who serve the province of Ontario, the Ontario civil servants. The main thrust of the management of the civil service over the last few years has been to provide each ministry with the authority to make decisions affecting employees in keeping with good personnel management practices. In this regard, a systematic delegation of responsibility to ministries for classification and staffing is continuing. The commission continues to provide broad guidelines for application by all ministries, and will continue to monitor the application and practices. We believe this is in keeping with the accountability of all resources with which ministries are charged.

In previous addresses, my colleague, the Treasurer, and I have announced a series of staffing restraints. During the fiscal year 1974-75, complement was held to zero growth. The first cut in the complement of the Ontario civil service—that was a cut of 1,500—was made on April 1, 1975. This was followed by a further cut of 1,741 announced on July 1, 1975, and a further cut of 1,000 complement effective April 1, 1976. This total

complement cut covered in these measures was 4,241.

In terms of actual civil servants, there were on staff as of March 1, 1975, 65,108 civil servants. On March 1, 1976, these were reduced to 63,883, and by December 31, 1976, to 63,210. The net reduction in civil servants within the period March 1, 1975, and December 1, 1976, has been about 1,900. The difference between the complement cut and the actual classified strength reduction is accounted for in the elimination of vacant complement in the ministries.

Much credit is to be given to the employees of the Ontario government for not only managing this programme of reduction so successfully, but also for being able to cope with increasing demands with fewer people and fewer dollars. In order to achieve the government objectives, tighter controls were placed on staffing actions, not only for civil servants but also for the unclassified staff. In my statement to the House of April 13, 1976, I outlined additional control measures which were implemented by the government to control the size of the unclassified staff. This additional control has been effective. The unclassified staff of March 1, 1976, was 15,039. On December 31, 1976, it was 14,811. And on February 28, the latest date for which I have figures, it stood at 13,744.

The staffing controls on both the classified and unclassified service implemented by this government has encouraged a greater internal mobility so that the reductions have been made at minimal disruption to the people and to the programmes involved. In recounting these restraints, I want to re-emphasize that these reductions have not been a mere reduction of staff level. They have been combined with a comparable control over the salaries and wages appropriations. This action was taken to ensure that staff reductions would take place and that any monies saved would not be used for other purposes.

I might also point out that the salaries of our senior civil servants were frozen for the period October 1974, to January 1977, and only then were increases granted and these were within the AIB guidelines. In addition, the senior management structure, which includes directors, executive directors, assistant deputy ministers and deputy ministers, was reduced by 65 positions.

In the continuing effort to make use of fewer and fewer employees, the government has reviewed its system of staffing with a view to eliminating credentialism—that is, requiring educational credentials that are not

absolutely essential to the functioning of the job. This, combined with increased emphasis on staff training and development, and the staffing controls referred to earlier, has contributed to the general mobility and flexibility of our civil service. Efforts in this area have only begun and further reviews of our staffing system will take place along with increased emphasis on staff training and development.

One example of our desire to fully utilize existing human resources has been the progress of the affirmative action programme for women Crown employees. Working in close co-operation with the chairman, commissioners and staff of the Civil Service Commission, the executive co-ordinator of women's programmes and the women Crown employees office moved closer to consolidating effective career programmes for women through a series of seminars, courses and policy proposals.

The second annual report of the executive co-ordinator, women's programmes, which I expect to table in this House on Thursday, outlines in detail the many activities which took place during 1975-76. This momentum was continued during 1976-77 with a number of initiatives such as the introduction of women into management courses, the publication of a bridge job guide and further research into employment issues of concern to women employees.

[5:15]

In co-operation with senior appointments and compensation, the executive co-ordinator of women's programmes undertook a series of in-depth career interviews with over 88 women who had been identified as having the interest and immediate potential for movement into senior management. These interviews will help to ensure that these women are actively considered as senior vacancies occur and that they will form the basis of special developmental programmes in the future.

Following the resolution of several equal-pay-for-equal-work complaints, the commission, the women Crown employees office and the employment standards branch of the Ministry of Labour ran three equal-pay seminars for regional supervisors. Several women took advantage of the commission's part-time project, whereby management positions may be converted from a full-time to a regular part-time basis.

Following the April 1976 joint union-management conference on women in the Ontario public service, the commission studied and responded to the recommendations in

the conference report. The introduction of the commission's career counselling centre replaced the WCEO career counselling service for women. During the year, the WCEO published a career planning workbook which is being used by the commission and is in general distribution to women employees.

I am confident that the coming year will prove even more productive. In order to ensure continued commitment to and momentum of the affirmative action programme, Management Board recently approved an updated directive on affirmative action which all ministries and Crown agencies will be expected to implement. I shall provide hon. members with more details on the directive on Thursday, when I table the executive co-ordinator's second annual report.

While I have so far stressed the work we've done in terms of overall management of the civil service, I want to be very clear about the importance with which we hold our relationship with our employees. In this regard, the staff relations programme will continue to work towards the objective of maintaining good relations between the government and its employees. The harmonious trend of relations during the past several months augurs well for the coming year. For example, once the problems associated with the first round of bargaining under wage and price guidelines were behind us, our relationship with the union improved considerably.

Public servants gave virtually no support to the October 14 day of protest. Only 15 of some 54,000 bargaining unit employees are known to have been off work without satisfactory reason on that day. All 18 salary contracts were settled in direct negotiations within the guidelines and before the expiry date of the agreement in all cases. Our day-to-day dealings with the union have usually been without rancour. The chairman of the Civil Service Commission and the executive director, staff relations division, have held periodic meetings with the president of the union and senior officials to discuss subjects of mutual interest, and here again the atmosphere has been mutually supportive. In fact, I joined them in a meeting with the president and one of his staff this afternoon on a matter which I think we've resolved satisfactorily.

During the latter part of 1976 and the early part of 1977, the union expressed grave concern over the transfer of responsibility for certain public services from the Crown to community-based boards or agencies. They were concerned about the possibility of loss of salary and benefits by the public servants.

who were transferred and also about the fact that they faced the prospect of a significant loss of members. A number of meetings have been held with the union on this subject, several of which involved me. Assurances were given to the union that the needs of the employees would be given full consideration in any future transfers.

In December, 1976, OPSEU submitted a brief to the Premier asking for a number of changes in The Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act. Among the changes requested—in fact the union referred to it as the most urgent change—was the addition of a successor rights section which would provide some measure of protection for the employees and the union in transfers of public services to private sector employers.

After discussing this particular request with my colleagues in cabinet, I advised the union that legislation would be introduced in the current session of the Legislature to provide successor rights similar to those provided by the Ontario Labour Relations Act for private-sector employees. A draft bill has been discussed with the union and will be introduced early in the session. And this, I can assure the House, is considered a major development by the union.

While I am satisfied that the public service of Ontario is generally efficient and effective, I also believe we should always be on the lookout for ways and means of improving our effectiveness.

Interestingly enough to me, some organizations have achieved notable success in this regard by involving employees to a greater extent in the determination of their own work practices and procedures. The end result has been a better quality of service and a more highly motivated work force.

With this objective in mind, we have initiated discussions with union officials to consider the idea of a number of pilot projects to test out the merits of this approach. I shall of course be pleased to report to the House on our progress in this experiment.

I hope that this brief outline of the work of Management Board will provide this House with an understanding of our commitment to continually improving the administration of government operations.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Oshawa.

Mr. Braugh: Mr. Speaker I want to participate in this debate. I would relish the opportunity to chase a few more things around than what I actually shall, but I

think it important that we deal in specifics in this debate and I want to confine myself to the area of housing in general. I want to do so because I think it's an important matter that is receiving less and less of a priority from this government. I think it is one where they have attempted a great number of programmes and policies and attempted to do things and in fact spent a great deal of money, and never really have been successful in finding very many answers to anybody's problems in the field.

I want to deal with it too because it has many aspects to it. Housing originally, I suppose, was or could be confined to the concept that if someone—a person or a family—needs shelter, they ought to have a decent place to live. We could talk about affordable housing, we could talk about decent housing for ordinary people, we could talk about the needs of an ordinary working man and his family or a working woman and her family to have a place to live—some kind of proper shelter.

That's true and that's probably the single most important factor in thinking about what you should do with the housing programme. But I think there are few people involved who really limit it to that kind of a thing. That may be their priority item but there are a number of other things that are involved in the whole housing field. Not the least of these is the number of jobs that are produced by building a house, because the house means a number of things related to that. It means goods and services provided to the people who live there. It means a sidewalk in front of it and somebody to do the lawn and somebody to pave the road and somebody to build the furniture. In fact it has a massive effect on the economy as a whole.

Not to be simplistic about it though, there really is that fundamental part of the economy that is governed by what happens in the housing field. It has a wide variety of services, and right now we might look at the building trades people, who are in desperate need of jobs, and part of the solution to their problems would be some incentives in the housing field—some effective way to have those people go to work building houses. This seems quite a logical thing to do with plumbers and electricians and masons.

There is in the local economy a rather large effect on taxation, particularly if you have spent some time in the municipal field as many of us have. You will realize the kind of funny irregularities that flow with massive housing starts in an area. The initial flow is

probably quite good because there is some influx into the local economy of building, of investment, of some jobs that are there. One also realizes that the taxation problem is not quite that simple, that if we allow massive housing starts in any given community in any given year we pay for that in subsequent years because there are associated costs in massive development.

There is the entire field of a kind of associated production, because if one goes to most housing sites today one will see that what goes into a house is not necessarily built on that site. A lot of it is trucked in—from beams that are put together in some other production facility to the carpeting, the electrical appliances, the light bulbs and such installations, the painting and decorating and the furniture that's brought in afterwards. A lot of our production industry, as well, is strongly tied to whatever happens in housing. If we stop building houses we dry up a lot of production facilities throughout Ontario.

Another major aspect is this whole concept of how we use our land: what's suitable for housing; what should be retained for farm land; what should be retained for recreation land. To run that the other way: A very important thing is that when there are more people living in housing in a given area, their need for the use of farm land in terms of producing food, or for recreation land for the things they do outside their working hours, becomes of increasing importance. In a small, rural community people might not have thought very much of a need for park land; it might not have been a priority item, because all around them were fields, woods and farms—the kinds of things that urban dwellers don't see. But if we increase the housing activity in that rather small rural area, we find that people immediately begin to think, "There isn't as much farm land around here any more. There isn't the recreation land that we need. We've got to have some park land."

There are all kinds of problems related to land use. There are also all kinds of problems related to transportation, which one can see around the entire Metro area, where there has been a greater emphasis on housing in those regions surrounding Metropolitan Toronto but that has not been followed by a very powerful transportation programme. That leads us into great disputes about whether people should use cars, GO trains or buses to get to work in the city, because in economic terms they've been forced to buy a house that is well outside the city limits. So transportation becomes an increasing problem.

All of these things are related to that one particular field we could call housing. All of them are very serious and, unfortunately, I'm afraid they're all areas in which this government has not exactly distinguished itself over the past decade.

I think we should investigate some of the traditional Tory approaches to the field of housing. Essentially, over the last number of years they have dealt with kinds of incentive or "carrot" programmes, mostly aimed at builders and developers and, to be a little more specific about it, mostly aimed at selling off existing stock. That may or may not be such a terrible thing if it were put into the context of a rather complete housing programme. But in isolation, and as a prime tool, it's not been a very successful thing.

For starters, when it is a sales programme, a gimmick to get rid of existing stock, that denies the question entirely as to (a) whether the existing stock was necessary in the first instance or (b) desirable and (c) what happens when the sales gimmick runs out, as we've seen a number of times. They haven't exactly been wonderful programmes in terms of getting people into houses, though they have been reasonably successful at draining an existing stock.

What we have yet to see from that particular approach, though, is what happens four, five or seven years down the road, when someone who got into a house by the skin of his teeth—maybe by a government grant—finds he is in a house put up by a builder who has cut corners in every area. We begin to see what happens when that house moves into its second generation of owner, and what happens when a rather flimsy thing is put up, when the people who bought it in the first instance, and who may not have been able to afford it without the government grant, may not have been able to maintain the premises as well as someone else might have. There are some difficulties with that, and we've yet to see all of the ramifications involved in that.

This government for a number of years has had a stranglehold, and still does, on all of the plan processing for houses, because whenever you want to build a house in Ontario you soon find that you have to go through the planning process. Normally there is about 16 to 18 months of rather serious confusion, and there is a lot of red tape involved. It's a rather obtuse situation where no one is quite sure why they're doing these activities; they simply know that's the law of the province of Ontario; that's the regu-

lations in the province of Ontario; that's the way things go.

[5:30]

The interesting thing is, although a large amount of that is done at the municipal level, the final signature, the control of all that, remains here at Queen's Park with the Minister of Housing. We have seen, in a few of the plans, some price agreements. This seems rather strange, since most people, both buyers in the housing market and those who are builders and sellers in the housing market, agree that the emphasis on the problem in housing today is not essentially that there are not a lot of houses to buy, but essentially that the price is too high. That one area seems to have received the smallest amount of attention from this government.

Those few forays into price agreements have been dramatic ones, and they have been kind of high-profile public relations programmes consisting of large blue signs in front of a project with the trillium on it and a minister or some dignitary coming down to cut the ribbon and making sure that everyone understands that the Premier has sent the cheque and signed it. They received a lot of publicity. They have not had a major impact on the market, that's for sure.

What we've seen, though, when the House was not in session, is a complete dismantling of whatever programmes might have been in existence and, in their place, not very much. Maybe this was just a simple assessment of what they had going for them. There are some embarrassing things. Government, having at one time convinced itself that land-banking was a sensible proposition, promptly proceeded to display an amazing ignorance of what land banking is all about. It promptly proceeded to buy thousands of acres in the wrong place and bought it without knowing what it intended doing with it. Now it has the land, and doesn't know how to get out of that situation. It prepares lists to be put out to builders and developers, but is not terribly sure that that actually is the list and is not terribly sure that it's prepared to make concrete proposals.

The minister, I noted in one press release, said he was going to send it all back to the private industry, and promptly retreated, "well, we're not going to put it all back. We'll put parts of it back. It will be some kind of a blend." So very unsure of themselves. And yet it is true, undeniably true, that in Ontario today the government of Ontario owns a substantial piece of real estate, in many forms, through many ministries, not the least of which is the Ministry of Housing,

but simply can't decide how to go through with that.

It's also true that it had a Home Ownership Made Easy plan, which was a workable notion, which had some administrative problems, to be sure, which never really did quite fulfil its potential, but had elements in there to actually make an impact on the market. There are those who would say—and I guess I would be one of them—that the reason the entire programme was abandoned is that it was on the verge of making an impact.

We looked at the little list that was released last week of property that the government not only owns but the Ministry of Housing bought precisely for the purpose of land banking, or for the HOME programme. We could see that the government of Ontario actually owns sizable pieces of real estate in almost every area of Ontario where there is a housing price crisis. That land undeniably could have been used to build homes for people with lower incomes.

But two things are now missing. One is a willingness on the part of the government to actually do that, and it's strange that, having acquired the property in those crucial areas, it now decides to abandon that particular programme. The second thing that's gone, of course, is any mechanism to get that on the market, to build and develop actual houses on those actual sites.

In its place we are left with one last, rather tenuous programme, something called an AHOP-HOME programme. There are some funny requirements about this, not the least of which is the minister did not see fit to put a substantial amount of money in that, suggesting in his first press releases that he was prepared to allocate something like \$2 million as a budget for this particular programme. There may well be more at a subsequent date, but \$2 million to this government is not a great emphasis on any particular programme.

One of the odd things about the federal programme that this government has decided to tie into is that although it has a minimum income restriction, it doesn't have a maximum income restriction. So that same game that we have seen time and time before, where millionaires apply for first-time home owner grants can apply in this situation as well, because there is no upper limit. There is no assurance that this programme will actually go to those people who are having financial difficulties. This programme, in fact, could be utilized by anybody who wants to go and buy a house and sees the sign and signs the

agreement. There is a minimum restriction, but there's not a maximum restriction.

It's odd that if this is the last, sole remaining programme in place to help people who need financial assistance in acquiring a home of their own, it would not at least attempt to deal with that problem alone, and not put out another open-ended programme. It's a strange piece of business.

Another strange thing was the government's admission that the Ontario Housing Corporation was not exactly beating the world down with success—that it's had a number of problems, not the least of which was probably a conceptual problem initially. It, I think, recognized quite simply that it never had performed in a way that was satisfactory to the needs of Ontario. That it never really had been an effective thing. The odd thing though is that instead of beefing up the operation, instead of cleaning up the act, the minister chose to shuffle it all off to the municipalities.

Now there is an argument to be made that the municipalities are there locally and probably can acquire property, develop it, and actually get the units up much better than OHC ever could. The stumbling block of course, is money. Where do the municipalities, with problems with their own tax bases now, get the funds to actually carry out these programmes?

And, of course, the claim usually is that the municipalities are not willing to do that. But it's my experience that that is simply not true. The municipalities are quite concerned about housing problems in their own area. I know that mine is. They are quite anxious to participate in the building and developing of new housing types for people with lower incomes who need assistance.

The problem is, of course, that the municipal tax base is rather strained right now as it is and it's going to be difficult to see much of an emphasis coming from the municipalities. The government can argue that it does assist municipalities to do that. I suppose it might be considered to be simply a matter of degree.

But, you know, Mr. Speaker, when you're looking at a mill rate and your people are yelling and screaming about the price of water and the price of sewers these days, it's going to be very difficult to convince people on a municipal tax base that they ought to get themselves involved in programmes which have traditionally been carried out by the government of the province of Ontario.

The low-income programmes that were previously in place to assist people on rather fixed incomes or who receive smaller amounts of money have been by and large dropped. And this may prove to be some difficulty.

When the minister announced this new federal-provincial programme, he really said that people earning between \$5,000 and \$9,000 could now realistically expect to buy some kind of a housing unit. I've looked at the details of the programme and it strikes me that it aims at that mark, but I think it misses it substantially.

For one thing, the expectation is that in four or five years' time when those programmes run out, the people will have raised their economic level to such a height that they will be able to carry it on themselves without any real difficulty. I'm not convinced that that's a realistic expectation.

It would be my estimation that somebody who needs that financial assistance now and is in that wage bracket is, largely, unorganized. It would be my estimation that his income has not changed dramatically over the last five or 10 years, and that it's highly unlikely that it will change enough over the next five or 10 years to allow him to carry that particular thing.

In short, I think that there are going to be a substantial number of people who win the opportunity to participate in this particular programme and who, five years from now, will find themselves in great financial difficulty. I am concerned that they will be buying units which are not by any stretch of the imagination top quality units, that they will have maintenance problems with them afterwards and that they will have income problems when these bonus programmes from the federal and provincial governments run out.

One area that really has not been particularly explosive in Ontario is that of things like limited dividends. Federal funding is a little on the short side and I haven't heard the province of Ontario even speak to that problem for some time now. Municipalities such as the city of Windsor, which wants to do this kind of thing, finds that, yes, it can be done but it's terribly difficult and the funds are extremely limited. It would have been an area, I would have thought, where if the government was going to turn these things over to the municipalities it'd have been extremely anxious to see that they had a fighting chance from day one.

I would have thought too that the government would have looked at the whole idea

of co-operative housing, of alternatives, of letting people use their own human personal resources as well as financial resources, to provide themselves with housing. Again, there are funding problems. The amounts allocated by the federal government are restricted. There is a great problem in having people who are trying to put together a co-operative project get any assistance from either the federal or the provincial level of government.

There is no ministry in the province of Ontario which is set up to deal specifically with that problem. There is no expertise in terms of planning, in terms of financing provided to people who want to put together a co-operative project. There is no offer of provincial land held by the province of Ontario for someone to put together a co-operative project.

One would have thought, having acquired the great socialist notion of the land bank, that the government would have been quite prepared to move to the great socialist notion of a co-operative, and that in fact it would be quite prepared, if it doesn't know what to do with all that land that it has acquired, to make it available to groups to provide co-operative housing.

Let me move to the whole area of a new phenomenon in Ontario that is a growing problem in specific areas; that is condominiums. Their share of the market in certain parts of the province of Ontario is rather substantial. Something like 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the market for resales or new sales in Metropolitan Toronto, I am told, are condominiums. That is a lot. That is an impact. The province of Ontario reacted by setting up a task force to investigate this problem. I want to speak very briefly and probably a little miserably about the task force.

First of all, I think there is the basic problem that those people who set up and designed the laws and regulations governing condominiums in Ontario very specifically have been asked to say that they were wrong, they made mistakes and they didn't do the right thing. That is a very difficult thing for any civil servant to do. That is tough. In fact, I would go as far as to say that it is probably an unfair thing to do.

Mr. Moffatt: It is tough for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations to do.

Mr. Breaugh: Let me put to you, Mr. Speaker, another problem which I found rather unique. I went to one of their hearings

where I suggested we were having some difficulties. I presented them to the committee from a member's point of view. I said: "One of the things you ought to do is you ought to come to the region of Durham and talk to those people, those individuals—not the corporations, not the associations, but the individual buyers of condominiums. Talk to them and hear their problems."

I got a most peculiar answer. Yes, they said, they would. Then they wouldn't. Then they would and then they wouldn't. Finally it was left at that, that they wouldn't. Why wouldn't they want to? Logically, if they were investigating problems with condominiums, it strikes me at some point in time they would want to talk to somebody who actually bought one of those things, maybe somebody who wasn't involved in a great corporation or association, just a poor little individual fellow or woman who bought a condominium. They said: "No, we are sorry, we don't have time to do that. We have to write this report. We don't have time to listen to people. If we do that for you, we will have to go all over the place."

Hon. Mr. Handleman: That is nonsense and you know it. They spoke to thousands.

Mr. Breaugh: You should talk to your parliamentary assistant, the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea).

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Ottawa only has the floor. Order.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Stick to the facts.

Mr. Warner: That committee is a disaster.

Mr. Breaugh: If you want to throw him out, Mr. Speaker, I'd help you.

Since we have had an interjection, let us move to that part of the market that deals with rental accommodation, a substantial one. Roughly a third of the people living in Metropolitan Toronto live in some form of rental accommodation. I think it only fitting that we deal with this whole matter of rent review. And, of course, we won't call it rent control, we will call it rent review because we don't want to offend anybody. We certainly wouldn't want to prevent the extension of it. But let me offer some ideas to the government.

This government has said repeatedly that it is in love with, firmly committed for ever and ever to the federal anti-inflation programme. If its connection is so strong why doesn't it take the little six per cent num-

ber that is supposed to pop out in year 2 and apply it to its rent review programme? It seems to me to be an extremely logical extension of its previous position. If the government thought eight per cent was fair, for whatever reason, in the first year, but mostly I am told because it came from the federal anti-inflation programme, it strikes me that it ought at least try for once in its life to be a little more consistent and take the six per cent number that pops out in the second year.

Let me ask why, very legitimately I think. Why doesn't the government even look at the problems that are in the administration? Why doesn't it address itself to this problem of allowing for some form of group bargaining? Whether or not it wants to go the whole route and say the tenants can actually bargain a rent with a landlord, which might be a frightening thing, at least it could go to the sensible idea that we really don't need to have 95 hearings on the 95 units. Maybe we could find some other mechanism that might get there.

Let us look too, because it is closely allied to the rent review programme, at the changes that we made in The Landlord and Tenant Act which are quite good. There is only one hiccup in the process; that is, what happens when the law has been violated? What do you do? Do you call the cops? Well, no, they don't want to see you. Do you get yourself a lawyer? That is hardly an appropriate mechanism for most tenants. There isn't anything there. Should there be some form of local rental officer, landlord and tenant officer or bureau to which tenants can turn when the law has obviously been violated?

From my point of view, from my perspective, that seems to be one major flaw that is there. The law is fine; the basic problem has at least been addressed in some measure by the government, the mechanism to make it work has not been.

[5:45] -

The kind of problems that emerge are little threatening letters and notices from landlords, little problems, a little browbeating, little withdrawal of services—a number of things which are, in fact, illegal. How does the poor tenant living on the fifth floor on Spadina get his or her rights enforced under the law? Well, that's another matter, isn't it? That's something like Reed Paper or Dow Chemical or a number of other people to whom certain laws apply in certain areas and laws in other areas not apply.

In my experience, in those areas where there is some form of a tenants' federation or tenants' association, the law is being followed. It has some problems in it—but it is roughly being followed. For those who don't have that support of a group, though, the law is not being followed. That's where real problems emerge.

Let me go to some of the traditions of the government of Ontario in dealing with housing. It has traditionally reacted to problems. It has not ever established a tradition of leadership. We really don't have any firm policies on the use of land, any really firm policies on the provision of services. There is one set of rules if you are doing normal servicing for a housing development. There is another set of rules that the government of Ontario decides on—as it did under its Ontario Housing Action programme. You have little government civil servants trying to convince members of local council that they ought to spend a lot of money; and they not only ought to spend it; they are told, "Here's the cheque to do it. All you have to do is set aside your normal planning process."

Never mind the objections from some other minister. Never mind the local conservation authority. "In this instance, and for this purpose, you set it aside. And the reason you do that, of course, is that here is the cheque from the minister." A very difficult thing to try to justify. Different sets of rules for different folks. The initiative has clearly been to the private sector, not to the public sector. And, Mr. Speaker, if you ask people in municipal governments, who are trying to provide some form of housing, you will see that there may, in fact, be a programme but it is not a very active one. There really are no incentives or initiatives given to local municipalities to provide things.

I am constantly amazed that almost all forms of housing agreements deal with everything else except price agreement. On those few occasions when we've got into those things, we haven't done it. That's the basic problem—the basic problem that has been ignored ever since this government was in power. It is probably the most important single factor in determining whether or not someone can or can't get into a house. They like landscaping, they like paved driveways and they want a fireplace and they want a second bathroom and all that, but it always comes down to the one thing—can they afford it? Can they get into that? Can they qualify for the mortgage? That seems to be the one that receives the least attention—

oddly. I can't really understand that particular position at all.

The end result from that entire programme, though, is that for both the buyer who wants to get into a house and for the builder who wants to sell the house, that is a crucial item. It's the one that has received the least attention—except when there happens to be a surplus or a glut on the market, or when there happens to be a crisis situation. The third occasion is when there is an election imminent.

The production of time agreements is a matter of some difficulty too. Under the Ontario Housing Action programme there were some agreements struck with developers to produce certain units at certain prices within certain time frames. But we really are dealing with reaction time in large measures. We really don't assess what the needs of a particular community are, what is available. We don't address ourselves to the concept of whether or not there ought to be rental accommodation put up, whether we should go heavily into condominiums, whether we should associate ourselves with federal and provincial programmes.

Now, the argument I suppose from the government's side of the House would simply be that you do that through the local municipality. And that's probably true to a degree. But what we are talking about here is, certainly, at least a shared responsibility; and, if we are talking about a shared responsibility, we would want to say that the province of Ontario, itself, ought to be the top dog in that shared agreement. And that means not only just calling the shots, as it does now, but funding the thing, providing the programmes, providing leadership instead of reaction. It doesn't do that.

I cannot, for the life of me, figure out why this government spends so much money on reports, on needs, on forecasting and then refuses to do that. When it has all that information at its beck and call, it promptly decides to dismantle its entire system, and does so systematically and rather brutally. I guess, though, that the problem is a philosophical one as well as a political one; that there is that point in time, you know, when the government does a number of things and gets to the point where it can actually make an impact, when the public sector could actually have some substantial influence.

That, of course, poses a problem on the other side of the coin that there may be those in the private sector who aren't too happy with that. But I think the government did clearly arrive at that point, probably in the

last three years, when it could have, had it chosen to, made an impact on the price of a house in almost all parts of Ontario. It decided at some point in time I guess that that really isn't a good thing to do—it had to get out of that. I don't know why.

I'm amazed too at how this government has not been reluctant at all to intervene in the marketplace. In fact, Mr. Speaker, if you talk to those people who are marketing houses, building them, developing them, plans of subdivision and whatnot, they'll give you an earful about government intervention.

So this government has not hesitated to intervene in the private sector at all. In fact it's been very busy there. But it seems to have been busy in all the wrong places. It seems to have put its great emphasis on the insignificant. It seems to have concentrated on building up a non-functioning bureaucracy of sorts. In all of the areas that you can think of where government intervention has taken place, particularly in the planning process, it's there all right, but it really isn't doing anybody any good.

You can talk about building codes; of course, there are inspectors who go around, but if one looks at the code itself it's surely insufficient for the needs of most people who want to buy a house. Particularly if they want to keep it and use it for some time.

So the concept of intervention is clearly accepted. There's no problem with that. It just seems to be insignificant intervention, useless intervention, counterproductive intervention. You talk about sales incentives being good things—and that kind of programme we've run around here for the last four or five years. Those are surely thorough interventions into the market. I mean the government is not really doing anything for anybody, except perhaps mailing out a cheque just before the election to see that they understand the public relations value of that kind of thing. And it has concentrated again on dumping existing stock, on buying out problems, of saving developers. There really are no bargains in that kind of an approach for anybody. Not for those who buy and not for those who sell.

In rental accommodation which is another aspect of where the government is going to intervene and what it's going to do—it talks in administrative terms of how the rent review programme was set up initially, how it functions now and will function in the future. The government sees that there is a lot of difficulty there and goes back to how it was set up by an outside personnel agency over a short period of time, specifically saying that

it was not to be an ongoing programme but was for a specific time frame, and that it sees some difficulties in how it was set up. I for one would like to hear the minister responsible, whoever it might be at that particular time, address himself at least to that when he provides for the extension of rent review.

I want to discuss too this notion that rent review ought to be attached to a time period. Surely that's a nonsensical thing. Surely we ought to be talking about tying it to something like a vacancy rate. Surely we ought to say that if two years from now or 18 months from now or 24 months from now, the vacancy rate in Metropolitan Toronto is as bad as it was before rent review began, the rent review is going to have to be there.

That is accepted right across the entire industry. You can't talk to a developer, somebody who is renting the units, a real estate person, or a tenant, who doesn't admit that. It has got nothing to do with what day it is, it has to do with the vacancy rate. So if the amendment is moving to target areas, if it's moving to some form of discussing an extension of rent review in the province of Ontario and it is saying that at some point in time the rent review process will flick off, then it ought to take itself out of existence when the problem is cured. And the problem will not be cured by time alone. If there are not sufficient apartments for rent, if the government believes in that free market economy routine, and it says that it ought to just let the thing roll, then it has to recognize that the problem is vacancy rates. If it is going to say, "At the end of a particular period of time we'll end rent review," that makes no sense at all. If you say, "We will end at a particular-point, when we have hit a target rate of five per cent vacancy in Toronto, or 3.5, or four, or 4.5 or 4.2 or 2.9" or whatever it wants to do—

Hon. Mr. Handleman: When has it ever been 3.5 per cent in Metro—ever?

Mr. Germa: You are condemning yourself. You are responsible.

Interjections.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I can't take credit or fault for past sins of this government. But if the government wants to do something sensible it'll address itself to the problem and not to the matter of political survival. I'm not really putting it down for trying to survive politically, but at least it ought to recognize what the problem is.

Mr. Warner: That would be novel.

Mr. Breaugh: Perhaps they ought to address themselves as well to this whole idea of putting approval powers at one level where it can be effectively done. In fact, municipalities do the work now and the minister simply approves. The minister ought to give some thought to that, as he has, without question, and as he has made proposals to the region of Niagara, to the region of Durham, to hand over to them approval powers, retaining some rights, of course, to have OMB hearings or to have the minister formally sign the document or whatever, but he has never done it. I think again it's a case where the government knows what to do but is unwilling to do it. I think there should be a considerable monitoring of the supply and demand situation that is at work in the economy. But it doesn't do that.

I think the minister ought to look at the very realistic problems of The Landlord and Tenant Act, and he ought to see that there are a number of rights that are left unprotected, that it is an adversary struggle and that very often those people who are tenants, they're not at the top of the economic scale, they very often have a number of related problems, they're not really in a position to insist on their rights. They're not really set up, either economically or socially, or in some cases they can't even speak the language, to go to battle with the landlord.

They depend on some form of protection from the government, and though the law might be there that doesn't necessarily mean that they're going to get the protection of that law. I've talked to people even just in the last few weeks who didn't have a language problem and didn't particularly have an economic problem, but certainly had that problem that they were afraid to insist that the law be obeyed.

That's an unusual concept in Ontario, but I have to say that in the field of rent review, in the field of problems with The Landlord and Tenant Act, it's true, undeniably true. If there is an association there or a little muscle behind them, they can get it—sometimes. Not as easily as they should and perhaps not in the way that they should, but it's feasible for them. If that's not true, if it's one lonely tenant dealing with one landlord—and sometimes it's the other way around, a landlord dealing with someone else—there is no mechanism to see that the law is obeyed in that particular field.

In the field of condominiums, I understand there will be presented to this House in this session a review of that condominium legislation and some changes proposed there. I

want to just very quickly run over some of the areas where I would anticipate some substantial change.

I think, without question, the government must deal with this matter of whether to register a unit before it goes to sale, because if one reads the signs it does say unequivocally "Condominium for sale" and if we understand the process, it may or may not be a condominium for sale. It may be a condominium project that one can buy into and when the project is registered, one can actually execute the sales agreement, but that may be a long way down the road. In between time, buyers pay something called—and this is a rather lovely name—"occupancy fees." People think they're paying rent. They find out it's not subject to rent control. That's another interesting thing. They see that it's an Assisted Home Ownership Plan, probably with a HOME programme tied into it, and they think, "My, that's very good, and I can certainly afford that." They move in and they find out that doesn't start until the

project is registered and in the interim they pay occupancy fees, bless them all, and they can be set, of course, by whoever owns the project. It's not subject to rent control. It can last for as long as it takes to get the project registered.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It is. Occupancy fees are rent.

Mr. Breaugh: It's an interesting little wrinkle that people who think they will be able to buy into a condominium probably at \$100, or \$150, or \$200 a month, find out when they move in that they are subject to occupancy fees of whatever rate there might be.

I see, Mr. Speaker, it is 6 of the clock. Would you like me to adjourn and resume at 8?

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member has further comments to make we'll just recognize the clock now.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1977

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Mr. Speaker: When we rose at 6 o'clock the hon. member for Oshawa had the floor. He may continue.

Mr. Breaugh: We were dealing at the adjournment with problems that people are having with condominiums. I want to run through some others. Registration in my area is probably the most difficult problem to face and causes the most hardships. That is a bit unique to the region of Durham because of some disputes that have arisen between developers and the municipality.

The second area I want to cover is the problem of managing condominiums. This is a rather new field and we are suffering considerable growing pains in that area. There are a number of people who have bought into condominium corporations that are having great difficulty with management contracts and in particular, are having great difficulty with management contracts that are run by the initial developer.

Even a number of people in the development field themselves who are still building condominiums are coming around to the point of view that there is such a great conflict of interest involved in that, that people who build condominium projects should not enter into management contracts for the duration or for the first five years, which would be a normal thing.

There is the problem in condominiums of taxation, of their being assessed too high and of the steps that the government has taken to redress that not being fair. There is the problem of municipal services that are not provided, and yet in a number of cases people are still paying full tax rates for them, although there are across Ontario a number of municipalities who have addressed themselves to that problem and have come up with some answers.

Perhaps one of the most common problems we run across with condominiums is very simply that the standards for the construction

of them are really not sufficient for the needs of the people who buy in there. They buy the thing thinking that they are buying a home. They are not prepared nor do they accept the same kind of problems they might have run up against in an apartment. These essentially are small convenience items of noise, where one puts the garbage, how many entrances there are and how far it is to and from the parking lot. Construction standards in condominiums are virtually non-existent. It's my view that they ought to be considerably tougher than they now are. I want to point out to those condominium corporations who assume a project which is perhaps not quite up to snuff: after it is registered all of those problems, which may have been the problem of poor construction, belong to the people who purchased into that particular thing.

Perhaps one of the reasons why we're having such difficulty with construction standards in condominium projects is that for many developers what they can sell—simply because that's all that people can afford—are condominiums; they cut a lot of corners. In luxury condominium projects—where construction is done to a higher standard—there does not seem to be that problem. But in the ordinary ones that you see advertised in the weekend papers, there seem to be a raft of difficulties coming out of those.

I think it would be highly advantageous if we moved to a standard sales agreement that explains to people, very clearly, what they are buying when they buy a condominium. There are more and more people in condominium projects—and it is a distressing fact—who were not aware that they were buying anything other than a home when they bought the thing. They were surprised afterwards to learn that they not only bought a housing unit, but they bought into a condominium project, that they are part of a condominium corporation, that there are rules and regulations which they must abide by, that there are restrictions on what they can and can't do with their own personal property. That, I think, should be spelled out very clearly in the sales agreement.

Along that line, another major problem is the matter of legal advice. I'm finding very

few lawyers who understand what a condominium is. In most instances they are processing those sales agreements as they would the purchase of any other housing unit; and, of course, that's not the case. People run into difficulty and they go back to the lawyer. The lawyer, frankly, does not know—and, in most cases—is unwilling to say very much about it. In many cases I think it's no secret that a good many lawyers greet clients at the door and say, "How are you? We're glad you could afford to buy a house. Come back and see me in three days." And that is the last that the lawyer himself actually does on that sales agreement. The work is very often done by a legal secretary and not by the lawyer himself. The fee is charged, I think, rather ill-advisedly, for legal advice that's non-existent.

If the government doesn't want to legislate change in respect to the form of legal advice a lawyer must give to a client when he buys a condominium, it should at least chat with the Law Society and inform them of the problems that are ensuing from people who use a lawyer in buying a condominium, but who do not understand what they are buying or what they are getting into. It strikes me that is the very least that could be done.

Another major area is that there are, of course, many people practising law who went through law schools at a time when there was no such animal as a condominium; they haven't done any updating of themselves since, and aren't in a position to provide legal advice, even if they wanted to.

Another major concern is the area of consumer protection—no question about it. When you buy a condominium in Ontario it is "buyer beware." That's a principle which is long standing in this society, and it really needs to be changed. There are those who say that there are consumer protection laws in the province of Ontario. But no one who has ever had to attempt to use those laws really believes that there is effective consumer protection in the province of Ontario.

There is a growing group of people who have taken their condominium association or corporation and formed it into some form of a regional association. This way the condominium groups—the corporations themselves—can discuss the kind of ongoing problems they're having with people who belong to a condominium down the street or across the road or in the same city or region.

Of course, when you stop to think about it, how sensible is it to expect a group of people who may never have seen one another before in their lives, to go together as part of a condominium corporation, expecting to

function, and function well, from day one? It's not really a very realistic approach to it all.

The condominium associations that are forming in various regions across the province of Ontario offer some hope on two major grounds. One is—just people helping other people, learning from other people's errors and learning from their experience and expertise. The second thing, I would hope, would be that some form of provincial association for condominium owners would emerge and be used by the government to monitor the situation almost daily.

This government has taken the attitude that we've had a Condominium Act for some time. It revised it in the early 1970s. It hasn't really substantially responded to the needs that are changing, that are different, and that are emerging on a much larger scale than they ever have before in the province of Ontario. It hasn't really responded to those needs since that time—and there is a need to. There is a need to move quickly into certain specific areas, some of which I have outlined. There is also a need to monitor that process on an ongoing basis.

In summary, I want to say—and I don't think it's unfair—that the Tory approach to housing is very much like the alcoholic who is taking the pledge for the 15th time. You know good intentions are there; you know the right idea has been expressed; you just don't have a great deal of faith that it will ever be carried out.

The record is one of mismanagement and abdication; the record is one of ignoring major problems until a great public foofaraw emerges and then trying to cool the fires. That is a problem for a government that is faced with a mismanagement problem, that can't seem to get its act together, that can't seem to decide what it is and where it's going and how it is going to deal with the problems. It avoids, in large measure, any significant measures that would solve the people's problems. It is on the verge, right now, of influencing the housing market in the province of Ontario: it has the land, it even has expressed policies and some programmes that might address themselves to those needs. And while it is on the very verge, it abandons it all. It just kind of jumps ship. That's a tragedy, because things could be done.

It's a tragedy that we spend so much government money researching this issue and then discard the results. We all get those documents from the Ministry of Housing floating across our desk. We know they've done the projections. We know they've done

the research. We know they've done the planning studies. We see all of that stuff crossing our desk. We also know that this government is not prepared to act on it. That is a tragedy. It is one thing not to know and to act out of ignorance. It's quite another thing to know what you should do and then just refuse to do it; that's precisely what has happened here.

Not the least of the problems facing people who are living in houses in Ontario today is this division of responsibility. If you lived in a house, you would think that your wiring would be the responsibility of the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes); but it's not. If you were a tenant, renting accommodation, you would think that the Minister of Housing would be responsible for your problems; he's not. You would think that the Minister of Housing would have some say having to do with mortgages affecting the price of the house and the amount you pay each month; he doesn't.

This division of responsibility is a very clever ruse which really means you're not just a home buyer; you are a consumer, a renter, a tenant or a number of other things. The Minister of Housing remains silent on those critical problems of the day and is left rather free to float around in proposed new programmes which will not work. They won't work essentially because nothing else they've done has worked and because there is the problem of mismanagement, of ignoring what has to be done.

In fact, the crucial distinction to be made is that this government is really devoted to a hard-line philosophy; and that's strange. It's not that it won't intervene in the market, because it does that all over the place; rather, it hard-lines it right at that point where the consumer, the person who buys a house or lives in a house in the province of Ontario, has a need. Where he needs the government to respond, at that point it jumps ship. At that point it can't make that decision. At that point it decides, "We'd better get out of this," because it might actually change things; it might actually influence that.

I recognize I am putting forward an opinion that is perhaps one-sided in the sense that it looks at it from a consumer's point of view and hasn't emphasized the point of view of those people who develop and build houses. The interjection of the province of Ontario into the housing field has been minimal and is getting less. They have moved in there, not in a positive way to provide leadership but in an obstructionist way, to provide a reaction to a very growing

problem. The end result has been insignificant. It really is mismanagement. It is mismanagement to the point where it is legitimate to ask in this House, do we have a Minister of Housing? We don't.

Mr. Reed: Mr. Speaker, I would like to express a particular thank-you to all those brave souls who came out here at this particular hour of the evening when, in fact, they probably knew I was speaking at this time. It's an exercise in hardiness, and I am very glad they're here, so I'll do my best to keep my remarks as brief as possible.

I realize I may be ruled out of order on this, but it's a pleasure as a Queen's Scout to acknowledge the cubs and scouts who are in the gallery tonight.

Mr. Speaker: You are right; you are out of order.

[8:15]

Mr. Reed: I've been ruled out of order. My apologies, Mr. Speaker. I'm particularly sorry that the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) is not here tonight. She was in my riding a couple of weeks ago, and in a speech out there she informed the partisan crowd that my best performance in the House to this date has been as Santa Claus at Christmas time. I wanted to inform the Minister of Labour that if she would take the trouble to appear in the House more often she might hear some of my albeit lesser but more frequent performances.

Mr. B. Newman: Constructive ones.

Mr. Reed: I'm also sorry that Premier what's his name isn't here tonight either.

Mr. Shore: He is with your leader.

Mr. Reed: I expected he would come out tonight. The last time he was in my riding at the gold-plated dinner, where they were desperately trying to raise money to unseat me in the next election—

Mr. B. Newman: No way.

Mr. Reed: —he had somehow forgotten my name during the course of his speech. Last weekend at the opening of the new Sheridan campus out in Brampton he did remember my name because I was standing up along the wall and about three or four times during his speech he made reference to me over there. At one point near the end of his speech, he said, "The one thing I've always wondered, Julian, is why you in, I suppose, the more colourful words of Charlie Farquharson didn't defecate to the Tories."

He knows, and most of the people in this House know, that I am an avowed free enterpriser.

Mr. Angus: Shame.

Mr. Hodgson: Come on over.

Mr. Reed: The point I would like to make is that the government of this province should not assume that it has some divine prior ordainment on the free enterprise system. When one looks at how the government handles free enterprise, one realizes they do have a handle on certain things. They have a handle on the bigger is better philosophy. They have a handle on the large corporate entity. They have a handle on something, where the NDP have difficulty separating from them too, that is, the business of centralization.

Mr. Shore: Where is your handle?

Mr. Reed: Don't say too much. The place where they miss tugs at the very roots of the economic foundation of this province, that is, the free enterprise system as it has been expressed through the small businessman, the entrepreneur—

Mr. Hodgson: You are talking like a Conservative.

Mr. Reed: —the real free enterpriser in the province of Ontario.

Mr. Wiseman: Come on over.

Mr. Reed: I really wouldn't have said anything about the free enterprise system tonight if I hadn't been goaded into it by the Premier (Mr. Davis). Then later I received this letter from a constituent. I have to point out to you, Mr. Speaker, that this letter and the accompanying brief were actually sent from a constituent of mine to the leader of the New Democratic Party. But he hasn't seen fit to deal with it, so I'm going to have to deal with it tonight. I just wanted to cite an example of how this government treats the small businessman.

We have a businessman here who has applied to the Ministry of Industry and Tourism. I'm glad the minister is here at the present time because he's had a runaround from the Ministry of Industry and Tourism for the last few months. Here is a man who wants to expand his business; he wants to represent the epitome of free enterprise. Yet the ministry states through one of its officials that the Ontario government is primarily interested in tourism and that's why he advised the man to go to the federal people. He even

offered to help him make the application to the federal government for money but hasn't followed through. It's just one of the sad examples of—

Mr. Haggerty: There's a job for the member for London North.

(Mr. Worton: Here is his chance.

Mr. Reed: —how we treat true free enterprise in the province of Ontario. Mr. Speaker, I think we have all agreed that, with certain reservations and limitations, minority government isn't working too badly. I liken it to a big freight train that is very slowly starting to move and where the Liberal Party is putting down the rails ahead of the engine.

Mr. Moffatt: There is a wreck about to happen.

Mr. Hodgson: Your problem is you haven't got an engineer.

Interjections.

Mr. Reed: I really don't want to be provocative and steal the Premier's thunder tonight, but I just have to point out to this House that most of the major moves and the major progress that have been made by this minority government have been made by the pressures put on by the party that has held the balance of power and that is the Liberal Party. But, Mr. Speaker, we still have a long way to go.

Interjections.

Mr. Reed: My, what a distance we have to go.

Mr. Angus: You better believe it.

Mr. Shore: You finally found your place.

Mr. Reed: The leader of the official opposition mentioned to this government in his speech yesterday the opportunities that are available to the government, opportunities to forge ahead now into new areas, areas that are necessary for the future economic base of Ontario. I just want to make mention of one of those opportunities.

I just happen to have in my riding the distinction of having one of the larger choices of garbage sites—they call it sanitary landfill—near the town of Milton. Sanitary landfill and the old town dump philosophy were with us at the turn of the century and all we have done is we have centralized the town dump and we have made it a little bigger. Of course, the pollution gets a little more concentrated when we make the dump bigger

and we pack the garbage in tighter and we make more garbage as the years go on. There is a solution to all this, and the solution was put forward by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) yesterday and I give him due credit for that. What he was doing was restating what I had said to the Minister of Energy (Mr. Taylor) in London the week before.

Mr. Martel: I bet you he borrowed from your speech.

Mr. Shore: You congratulated him there.

Mr. Reed: I had pointed out that there was an opportunity here for the first time, and the first time to do it economically, to get on with the technology of the development of solid waste recovery, and in a new area—not from the point of view of compacting and separating and shredding and re-inventing the wheel the way the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr) is doing up in Downsview at the present time, but getting on with turning garbage into a useable resource and one that can be economically viable and one that can prove cost recovery. One of the ways of doing that is through the processes that produce fuel. In the case of the Leader of the Opposition he mentioned the process of making methanol. There are all kinds of technologies available around North America and so on, but it is unfortunate that Ontario is really the last to get out of the town dump mentality.

Mr. Hodgson: They are further ahead than any other place in North America.

Mr. Reed: No, they are not further ahead than any other place in North America. I will take the member personally, if he will put up the money—

Mr. Hodgson: Yes they are.

Mr. Reed: —and we will go out to the city of Seattle and we will see what they are doing with the production of ammonia using garbage in the city of Seattle. We are the last people to make these moves. So I suggested to the Minister of Energy—

Mr. Moffatt: Can a Crown corporation do it then?

Mr. Reed: —understanding the constraints that are on capital spending, and I approve of constraints in this era of repeated deficit budgeting, I pointed out to him the opportunity for the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of the Environment to join hands

and to pool their resources and use the garbage to get into a new energy source for the province of Ontario. It remains to be seen whether that is going to happen, but we can no longer go on putting garbage into holes in the ground in this province. We have to stop it and we have to stop it right now.

Mr. Hodgson: Put it up in the sky there.

Mr. Reed: We have the opportunity—

Mr. Moffatt: We have got garbage but free enterprisers don't want it.

Mr. Reed: We have the opportunity to produce saleable products, and let me tell the member something—

Interjection.

Mr. Reed: —that very soon the free enterprises will be competing for the garbage of the province of Ontario. So we've got that problem.

Interjection.

Mr. Reed: I have another particular problem in my riding, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to allude to. It was a problem that my Conservative opposition at the time decided was the reason for my election. It was the Niagara Escarpment Commission. The Niagara Escarpment Commission runs diagonally through the riding of Halton-Burlington. It cuts it right in two, and it creates an awful lot of trouble for an awful lot of people. Do the members know that on the Niagara Escarpment you really can't put a fence post in, you can't build a garage, you've got to have the colour of your house approved and the colour of your roof and the rest of it? If you want to—

Interjection.

Mr. Reed: —yes, want to give in. Of course, we can take the gravel and so on out of the Escarpment and we can deface it, but people are subjected to a bureaucracy that they have never been subjected to before in their lives.

We've been told by the NEC that as soon as the master draft plan is completed everything will be well. We'll all know exactly where we stand and so on. This draft plan was supposed to have been completed a year ago, and we still haven't got it. And that's the second of these major problems that are in this riding. I wonder, the way bureaucracies work under this administration, if we will ever get it.

Mr. Nixon: Going to have to change the government.

Mr. Reed: We get put off month to month to month, and now they even get annoyed when I phone up and ask, "Where is it?"

Mr. McEwen: You will have to lay the tracks for that one.

Mr. Reed: Mr. Speaker, my riding has not escaped the tragedy of unemployment. We've had one coating mill closed permanently in the town of Georgetown. We have another coating mill that is closing 50 per cent of its operation down and I fear for the balance.

Unemployment is a result of a combination of factors. But not the last of these are the illusions that are created by government in the minds of people concerning jobs and concerning incomes. And one of the chief illusory inputs into this tragedy is the deficit budget. My former leader campaigned on that issue during the last election. Members know what he said—remember the slogan?—"We can no longer afford a Davis government." That's come true. Because we've had deficit upon deficit now for—we are up to over \$2 million a day just to cover the interest. And that's a bubble that is going to burst, because now we are in an economic situation where we should have enough reserves so that we can go into deficit if we need to to stimulate the economy, and we are in real trouble. So this is another of the areas that we have to tackle in all earnestness through this session—

Mr. Haggerty: Marvin should be right at home with those comments.

Mr. Reed: —and the session to follow.

Mr. Good: Read him your speech of last year.

Mr. Shore: Good stuff.

Mr. Reed: Without taking too much time of the House, sir, I have—

Mr. Hodgson: Lots of time.

Mr. Reed: —one more item that I would like to deal with for a few minutes. And it is the subject which is rapidly becoming the most important single economic input into the economy of North America. It's the subject of energy.

Energy is something, Mr. Speaker, we took for granted for many years with the discovery of coal and the discovery of petroleum later on, and that great flow of abundance that came to us at such low, low prices. Even

today, when we flip the switch when we go home we still expect that the lights are going to come on. We expect that when we pull up to the gasoline pumps we are going to get gasoline in our cars. And we gripe a little when the price goes up but we still expect it is going to be there.

But everybody knows the situation in this country, and we know that the discoveries of new petroleum sources of the lower cost variety have not come as expected to Canada. Even the so-called Delta reserves have only proven to be about 10 per cent as reliable as expected in the first place in terms of petroleum. We found a quantity of natural gas there, fortunately, but we're not getting the petroleum.

[8:30]

So we're going to be turning within a five-year period to the tar sands and to OPEC oil. Maybe we'll get a little life extension if we find a few more potfuls of liquid gold in the low-cost areas, but we're not going to find many more. This brings on not only an initial problem but it brings a great challenge to the province of Ontario, for you know that in Ontario, Mr. Speaker, we are energy intensive because we are the industrial heartland of this country and hope to remain so. We are also energy deficient and at the present time are importing over our borders 80 per cent of the energy we use. That's old news, I realize, and I may be talking to some of the converted here anyway.

But the point is that it's something we cannot ignore and it's a fact of life that's going to become more and more prominent as the years go on. I might say that I am disappointed and shocked at the absolute absence of an energy policy by this government. They don't know where they're going. I expected good things from the new Minister of Energy, as a matter of fact, but he stood up in the House last week and launched a political diatribe, and that's the best way you can describe it. There is no policy there.

We know that when we get tar-sands oil coming in here at a cost per barrel of crude of between \$17 and \$20, or if we have to buy OPEC oil at \$15 or \$16 or \$17 a barrel, we're going to have gasoline at \$1.30 a gallon. That gives us some cause for concern, I hope. But it also gives us a challenge and it's a challenge that can be met in the province of Ontario.

I want to reassure everybody that I'm optimistic about the energy future of Ontario, if only the government will come to grips

with the reality. In Ontario, what we have to do is prepare ourselves for the advent of a new energy age—renewable resources. It's the renewables that are going to make the difference and are going to sustain the economy of this province.

I don't say that in the light of the NDP's position. I've debated this with some of their people who feel that it's going to require some dramatic change in lifestyle and we're all going to have to live in the dark. I don't believe that for one minute. I believe that dollar economics will determine the change to renewable resources, but the government of Ontario has a responsibility to bring those technologies on stream and to help them come on stream.

Of course, one of the things that I'm particularly pleased with in the Throne Speech is the first statement in the history of this House that renewable resources had to be developed in the province of Ontario. I can tell the House that I will support every move the government can make to make that development a reality. We're probably already a decade behind, but if we don't begin now, and we don't put all our efforts towards that end, we're going to be in deep trouble within five years.

Yes, we have a long way to go and I want to say that I am privileged to be here during this time to do my small part to serve that progress. The government and my party can be sure that I will support every effort to see that these problems are overcome and this province is once again on a sound economic foundation.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Oriole.

Some hon. members: Resign.

Mr. Cassidy: Dispense.

Mr. Germa: Dispense.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Throne Speech this evening, particularly on the occasion of this being the silver jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, for which due recognition was paid in this House at the opening of the session.

Mr. Speaker, if I might for a moment, before launching into the subject matter of the Throne Speech itself, I would like to draw attention to the Queen's silver jubilee booklet that was made available to all members of the House. From reading same, it cannot help but impress one with the endurance, the commitment, the dedication of this person to the well-being of the Commonwealth as

we have known it in the past and as it exists today. I guess there is no one individual who has contributed more to the unity of the nations within the free world than has the monarchical system and in particular, the present monarch. And so that I add to, not only my collective congratulations that were expressed in the House several days ago, but again I feel compelled to extend my own personal congratulations to Her Royal Majesty, the Queen.

It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, that comment has been made by both opposition parties on the length of the Throne Speech that was presented. At the same time they have mustered enough courage, if you will, to virtually compliment the government on the programme that has been outlined in the Throne Speech, thereby recognizing that not only has the speech been one of length, but one of substance, containing many programmes that obviously the members of the opposition recognize as being legitimate programmes that this government is prepared to bring forward to better serve the citizens of this province.

One of the major features in the Throne Speech and one which the opposition parties have been monitoring for some period of time is the government's intentions with regard to the continuing protection to people in this province who are finding themselves living, through choice or necessity, in rental accommodation. Some concerns have been expressed as to whether the rent review programme as it has presently been placed in the law books would be continued by this government or terminated, as was provided for in that self-same statute.

This government, Mr. Speaker, is fully aware of the success of this programme and how it has, in fact, in many respects relieved the people living in rental accommodation of the anxieties with which they're confronted associated with the uncertainties of increasing costs and the affordability of the living accommodation wherein they find themselves. As a member of an urban riding within the Metropolitan Toronto area, having perhaps one of the largest components of rental accommodation of any of the ridings within our fair province, I am perhaps more fully aware than many of the great importance of this government continuing to recognize the need of and support for people living in rental accommodation, whether it be in high-rise apartments or town houses or whatever type of setting. So that certainly I hasten to support the programme that we're bringing forward in the form of an extension of the existing programme—one that has not only

proven successful, but that will continue, I'm sure, to meet the needs of a large portion of our population living within the urban communities.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech, I think, honestly and candidly points out the difficulties that do revolve around the rent review programme; because paradoxically, while it has met the needs of tenants in this province, at the same time it has had a negative effect. The negative aspect of the programme, as stated in the Throne Speech of course, relates to the lack of new rental housing accommodation that has come forward since implementation of the programme; and it is this paradox to which this government is going to address itself during the current session and endeavour to bring forward programmes that will offset this aspect of the programme that leaves us, at this point of time, with the programme winding down—if it had been terminated in July of this year—leaving us at a point where there would be less new rental accommodation on the market than there was when the legislation was first enacted.

There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that one of the inhibiting factors to the private sector in being encouraged to build new housing has been the restrictions, as they have seen them built into the legislation, as they affect their ability to operate freely in the marketplace and to realize a reasonable return on their risk venture capital. The fact of the matter is that many of the investors in commercial real estate, in residential income real property, have found it more suitable to in fact invest those moneys in securities, long-term notes and bank deposits, which yield nine, 9.5 and 10 per cent, rather than to risk their capital in programmes that have controls imposed upon them whereby they're not assured of obtaining a reasonable return on their undertaking.

Mr. Makarchuk: Think of the write-offs.

Mr. Williams: Then it seems, Mr. Speaker, that to encourage the building industry to get back into this market some flexibility may have to be considered in the area of the rental rates that may be charged and that will be acceptable to this government, and in particular to tenants, while giving the building industry some greater degree of flexibility than presently exists. This is certainly a problem that the government has to grapple with and to provide solutions for.

But, Mr. Speaker, it's not only the rent review legislation that has tended to inhibit somewhat the activity in the private building

sector. There are other factors, which taken together have in fact created situations whereby many of the major builders and developers are now actively pursuing their business activities in other jurisdictions. Companies that traditionally have had the bulk of their construction activity within the province of Ontario are now operating more actively in other provinces, and a number of the major building companies are establishing themselves in the United States land development market.

[8:45]

The construction companies that have moved to the United States in rather significant numbers in the past year or two state their reasons for doing so as perhaps fourfold. One, of course, has been their concern about the somewhat restricting rent control legislation. Secondly, of course, they have pointed to the high cost of financing their projects; this is readily identifiable and easily understood when we see the prime rate for mortgage loans in this country running in the 11 to 12 per cent area as contrasted to eight to nine per cent mortgage loans for the same type of undertakings south of the border.

Another factor that I think has continued to discourage people from obtaining equity in real estate by buying their own home is the continuing refusal of the federal government to consider implementing the same tax relief that again is provided in the United States, where tax exemptions are granted to home owners on the interest charges payable under their mortgage loans on their property.

Mr. Haggerty: What's the matter with your government doing it?

Mr. Williams: This has to be one of the most encouraging aspects of home ownership as far as attracting people to that area is concerned. Certainly this type of tax exemption would be a very substantial form of relief to a home owner, and it is one that the federal government has continued to—

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will you keep your private conversations down? I would like to hear the member for Oriole.

Mr. Makarchuk: You are the only one in the House.

Interjections.

Mr. Williams: It appears that the federal government is insistent on maintaining this

posture, which is unfortunate because it indeed has contributed to inhibiting people from leaving rental accommodation and endeavouring to put equity into real estate in the form of purchasing their own home.

Mr. Germa: How about the first-time home buyers?

Mr. Williams: Another area that has concerned the development industry is the bureaucracy and red tape that confront the industry.

Mr. Samis: You sound like the member for HUDAC.

Mr. Makarchuk: Eddie Goodman can straighten that out.

Mr. Williams: The people in the public sector, the elected people at the municipal and provincial levels, and indeed at the federal level, all seem to have contributed to building up a bureaucracy that, in fact, has proved to be counterproductive in terms of assisting the citizens of this province to buy affordable housing on a fairly expeditious basis.

When I first entered into political life as an elected municipal representative in one of the outlying boroughs of Metropolitan Toronto, I recall that in those days if an application for the development of land by way of a rezoning application took more than six months to process from the time of presentation to the council to the time of approval, it was considered to be an undue length of time that could not be justified and, in creating the delays, actually contributed to the increased cost of the housing that ultimately came on the market after approvals were ultimately given and the homes built. There is no question that time is money, and so long as municipalities and governments impose controls and procedures that unnecessarily create these delays, then the person who will bear the financial brunt of those delays will not be the home builder or the developer; it will, in fact, be the consumer. You know, Mr. Speaker, that the builder has to pass along his costs if he is to continue to stay in business and realize a reasonable return on his investment.

There is most certainly a need and a responsibility on government to impose appropriate controls on land use development, whether it be under The Planning Act, whether it be at the municipal level by way of zoning bylaws or official plans. These are appropriate and responsible measures of government to ensure high standards of develop-

ment that provide some degree of uniformity, that provide basic and essential services to people who are buying their homes, whether for the first time or as repeat buyers; but in so doing and acting upon this responsibility, I think governments at all levels have to recognize that even these controls and delays can be carried to excess.

This is an area that the building industry has pointed its finger at for some period of time, pointing out that now it can take anywhere from two to three years from the time a housing project is proposed to the time of construction being commenced.

We all know, with the state of the economy such as it has been over the past two or three years, that each year lost in such an undertaking increases the cost of the end product by anywhere from one to two times. Again, it is the consumer who pays the cost.

Another area of concern, of course, has been the general public attitude to growth and development, where both extremes have been brought to bear—those who propose a no-growth posture, to those who suggest there should be no controls and we should go gung ho to ensure that more housing comes on the market much faster than has been occurring heretofore.

I think perhaps of the two extremes the one that has dominated the local scene has been the no-growth attitude—the suggestion that new development and growth is not in the best public interest, that it contributes to environmental pollution. Certainly in this context sometimes the two are equated one with the other; although, I suggest, inappropriately.

I can think of the many instances in Metropolitan Toronto, the city of Toronto in particular, where there has been a very negative attitude displayed by the local government to any further growth or development within the city to the point where, in fact, even if that position was relinquished or modified to any significant extent today, there would appear to be no takers in the building industry who would want to come back into Toronto to start building.

Turning to those who oppose further growth or development to try to meet the housing needs of our community—or the commercial, industrial needs—by negative opposition and by unnecessary delays being brought about by continual objections, the public sometimes has perceived these reformers, as they are sometimes called, as doing the community a service. Yet, on the other hand, when you come to the end result

and the housing isn't there, and the cost of rental accommodation increases because of lack of new facilities, then I think one has to really assess whether the opponents to any growth and development have worked in the best interests of the community at large.

There is, I suggest, a heavy responsibility on all of us at the provincial and at the municipal level to rethink our attitudes in this regard. I think it is imperative that a new air of confidence and co-operation has to be developed between the private and public sectors, to encourage the private sector to become more active in the marketplace, notwithstanding some of the other difficulties—such as the basic economic times that we are confronted with—notwithstanding that situation to encourage the private sector to get back into the marketplace, to come back to Ontario and to participate as fully as it has done in the past. Certainly it is the intention of this government to offer every encouragement in this regard. Most certainly we will continue to provide responsible controls, but we must find ways and means of finding more expeditious means of seeing that these controls bring forward balanced housing into the marketplace.

I'd like to refer to that part of the Throne Speech which encourages more government activity in the area of small businesses. I have been most impressed with the manner in which the Ministry of Industry and Tourism has assisted industries in this province, both large and small, in their development, their growth patterns, and in assisting them in their administration, directing them to areas of the province where there was greater opportunity of employment, where there would be a more balanced marketplace. I think the ministry has provided great assistance in this area. However, I think more can be done in this area, and, in fact, this has been so stated in the Throne Speech.

[9:00]

One of the concerns that I've had expressed to me on a number of occasions by the people in the business community is that while the Ministry of Industry and Tourism through its industrial division has provided great assistance, perhaps more than enough emphasis has been given to the companies involved in the export-import sector of our private sector.

Mr. Kerrio: Is the member for London North (Mr. Shore) listening to that?

Mr. Williams: Most certainly the government has given great support, through the trade missions that have gone abroad, to finding new marketplaces for the Ontario industries. The minister, in making his reports on an annual basis, has clearly demonstrated the success of government involvement in the private sector to encourage more export, which is of course one of the basic and key ingredients of the economic viability of not only Ontario but of this nation. To provide greater impetus in the marketplace as far as the domestic industries are concerned, I know will be well received, and at a time of a troubled economy be more than welcome by the small industries.

I listened with interest earlier to the comments made by the member for Halton-Burlington (Mr. Reed) when he was talking about some of the environmental problems, particularly as related to the vexatious problem of waste disposal. At that time, he seemed to indicate that the days of the conventional means of waste disposal were passé, should be put aside and that we should be moving into these new directions of waste recovery programmes. However, if the member had participated in the estimates debates at the last session of the House when this very troublesome subject was discussed at length, it was, I think, made abundantly clear at that time that there is in fact a time-lag that exists in bringing on stream of these new, more sophisticated waste recovery programmes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the hon. members keep their voices down. It's discourteous to the speaker.

Mr. Williams: While a waste recovery programme has been suggested by the member for Halton-Burlington as being the ultimate solution to our waste disposal programme, he has not accounted for or spoken to the most difficult aspect of this whole programme, which is the intermediary period.

Mr. Kerrio: The government doesn't have any programme at all.

Mr. Williams: At the present time, we have the conventional sources available to us, which relate to the landfill projects of which he spoke, and we also have incineration as the other alternative. If I can use the Metropolitan Toronto area as a classic example, at this point of time there is in excess of two million tons of garbage accumulating each year within the Metropolitan Toronto area.

An hon. member: Right here.

Mr. Williams: That garbage at the present time has to be either incinerated or disposed of in a sanitary landfill site.

Mr. Haggerty: In somebody else's backyard.

Mr. Williams: At the present time, within Metropolitan Toronto, with a population in excess of two and a half million people, we have a total of three operating incinerators. We have two operating within the borough of North York. We have the Commissioner Street incinerator, which itself was refurbished at some substantial cost of \$9 million to bring it up to acceptable environmental standards.

Mr. Haggerty: Is it producing electricity?

Mr. Williams: One of the two major landfill sites within the Metro area, the Beare Road site, has been basically completed and closed down. The Factory Road site is close to completion. Last year the government did give approval to the opening and operation of the new Pickering site, which is the only alternate site available and operating at this time. In the meantime, the government has taken initiatives to provide the more sophisticated type of equipment, such as illustrated by the Downsview facility which was referred to a few moments ago.

But the erroneous suggestion was made that this type of new sophisticated facility, with a high degree of waste recovery component attached to it, will be the end-all solution to our problems. How erroneous that assumption is. We need only look at the Downsview facility as an example of the error in that observation. In fact, as new and as sophisticated as that facility may be in recovering over 600 tons of garbage a day under the recovery programme, yet in excess of 800 tons of garbage a day are compacted and sent to local transfer stations and then sent from there to the existing landfill sites. In other words, more than half of the input into that facility is still being disposed of in the conventional way.

Studies that have been undertaken in European countries would bear out the fact that total waste recovery is not achievable. Most certainly the new facilities that are coming on stream, the type that has been proposed at the west end of the city, the "watts from waste" project that has been talked about so frequently, certainly would be a move in that direction. But here, too, one has to consider the huge capital cost involved in bringing these projects forward, not only the time lost but the heavy capital cost involved.

Mr. Lewis: You are making an argument against recycling?

Mr. Williams: That particular project in the west end is one that had been proposed and supported by this government; yet the majority of the cost would have to be borne by the local municipality, in this instance the Metropolitan Toronto government.

Mr. Lewis: That is always the way it is with this government.

Mr. Kerrio: Let Hydro do it; let Hydro do it, John.

Mr. Williams: In any event, again the recovery of energy from that project would not be the total disposition of the waste that would be consumed in that facility. A large part of it would still have to be disposed of at local landfill sites.

A great deal of emotion, of course, emanates around the topic of landfill sites, or garbage dumps to use the vernacular if one wants to have the emotional impact in discussing the subject. No one wants a garbage dump in their own backyard; there is no question of that. On the other hand, the fact of life is that some type of conventional facilities of this nature, either new incinerators or new landfill sites, have to be provided in the immediate future to bridge that time gap between the bringing on stream of new, more sophisticated incinerators which have the waste recovery component built into them, or Metropolitan Toronto is going to face a crisis such as it has never been confronted with in the past.

Mr. Lewis: Ah, they have been saying that for three years.

Mr. Williams: The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, new landfill site facilities are not provided to bridge this five-year gap. It's estimated that the bulk of these new projects, such as the Downsview facility when it is brought to its full capacity, are still two or three years down the road. Planning of the central Toronto project is not off the drawing board, it will take two or three years more to plan the details of it, and another two or three years to build. All of these projects that are being talked about, even if they move forward, it would at the very least take three to four years to bring on stream.

By the same token, the existing landfill sites have virtually been totally utilized. There is a great deal of controversy now surrounding the Maple site as being the

closest potential new site within reasonable distance of Metropolitan Toronto. Whether, after the environmental assessment and review of that site, we find it is, in fact, acceptable for use for that purpose from an environmental point of view, remains to be seen. Whether it is that site or whether it is one of a number of other possible locations within the proximity of Metropolitan Toronto, some new landfill site facilities will have to be provided within the next one or two years.

Mr. Lewis: On agricultural land.

Mr. Williams: There is no doubt about that question. No matter how you present the argument, no matter what approach you take to the subject, that is a factor that cannot be put aside or avoided. The longer local governments, governments at all levels, avoid that reality the more difficult will become the problem. The bridge period must be dealt with and it must be dealt with now.

On the landfill sites that are talked about, certainly those who oppose them in principle paint a very unpleasant picture with regard to them. Yet every day of the week, thousands and thousands of people drive past probably three of the most recent landfill sites that were developed and completed within the boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto. Today, those lands are not recognized for what they were. They are usable lands. They are lands that are used for recreational purposes. They, in fact, are three sites that flank the Don Valley Parkway. Whether it's in the winter or summer, you can see children tobogganing down the hills, which prior to them being converted to landfill sites were holes in the ground that were totally unusable for any purpose whatsoever. They were restored to a useful purpose and at the same time met an immediate need in accommodating solid waste material.

No matter what the opposition members will propose in the way of alternatives, that basic problem will continue to be with us. The two together—the new techniques along with the conventional—alone will solve and come to grips with the total problem.

Another matter of concern, Mr. Speaker, and one to which I think the budget addresses itself, is the area of tourism—

Mr. Ferris: The budget? Which budget? You are on the Throne Speech.

Mr. Cunningham: We don't have the budget yet.

[9:15]

Mr. Kerrio: It is okay, we will straighten you out any time you go astray.

Mr. Williams: I said the budget, I meant the Throne Speech, of course. Thank you very much.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Maybe it's last year's speech, you can't tell.

Mr. Williams: Most certainly, next to the farming community the tourist industry is the one that is more subject to the vagaries of the elements, the natural elements, the weather, than other industry and as such is perhaps one of the most hazardous businesses that one would want to involve oneself in. As such, our Ministry of Industry and Tourism has offered, through the Throne Speech, to provide additional supports and initiatives to that sector of the economy, and rightfully so. I'm encouraged to see that the ministry will be offering further assistance in these areas.

An area that has been of some continuing concern to myself, as a member within the large, urban, Metropolitan Toronto area, has been the matter of transportation. Certainly this government has to be commended for its achievements in this area, particularly in the area of support, financially and otherwise, of public transportation. I can certainly well illustrate how the progressive transportation policy of this government will benefit my own area. In approximately a year's time an extension of the GO Transit system will provide new rail service from Richmond Hill down to Union Station through the heart of my riding. This new undertaking and facility is being eagerly anticipated by my constituents. They look forward to the day when they will be able to drive their cars to parking stations located at the Finch-Leslie area—

Mr. Kerrio: And catch a Greyhound bus.

Mr. Williams: —or located at the Sheppard Avenue-Leslie Street area and thereby take one of three commuter trains to the Union Station in the early morning rush hour period—

Mr. Cunningham: You are uptown looking for downtown.

Mr. Williams: —and to use the same service on the return trip in the evening.

Mr. Samis: What time is it?

Mr. Ferris: When does the bus leave?

Mr. Williams: The expansion of that programme from the conventional five-day work week to weekends and holidays will be

assessed on the basis of consumer demand and usage after the initial service is initiated.

I am also gratified to see that the Don Valley Parkway extension, which had terminated at Sheppard Avenue, is now, through the initiative of this government, nearing completion in its extension northward to the northern boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto.

The extension of this facility has been long needed, particularly when the existing road facility had acted as a conduit into which the traffic from areas as far away as Sutton and Aurora had been coming down to the centre of the city using four-lane roadways from Highway 7 down to Steeles Avenue and then funneling into a two-lane country concession road from there on down to what has been up until now the top of the Don Valley Parkway. That constriction of traffic has imposed an intolerable burden on the movement of private and commercial vehicles in the northeast sector of Metropolitan Toronto, and as such, the completion of this extension will indeed be welcomed both by commerce and industry as well as by the citizenry who live not only within my riding but beyond the northeast sector of Metropolitan Toronto.

If I might, I would like to come to what I consider to be perhaps one of the most significant aspects of the Throne Speech and one upon which both opposition party leaders have dwelt at some length. It relates, of course, to the state of the economy and responsible financial planning. I found it interesting to listen to the leaders of the two opposition parties taking the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) to task for his forthright and candid presentation the other day of the three-quarter report on the state of the budget.

Mr. Lewis: What three quarters? It was eleven-twelfths. Get your facts right.

Mr. Breithaupt: It's only money.

Mr. Williams: I think it's regrettable, in fact, that the budget of last year and its virtual fulfilment would be selected as a target for outright condemnation and that there would be no acknowledgement given to the fact that the budget has largely been fulfilled as far as the predictions are concerned. The unfortunate aspect, of course, has been the shortfall in the projected revenues, which is regrettable and has brought to bear additional hardships.

Mr. R. S. Smith: It was predictable.

Mr. Williams: What I think has been accepted by and large by the citizens of Ontario was the need to do what the government did, notwithstanding the heavy criticism at that time by the opposition parties; and that was to bring in a responsible budget which put forward the concept of restraint in the public sector. The wisdom of that decision has proven itself. While it may have been politically unpopular to impose significant financial constraints, nevertheless the objectives brought about by the imposition of that programme have been achieved in large measure.

It has been indicated quite clearly by the Treasurer that there will be a continuation of responsible restraint in this time of economic difficulties, which extend far beyond the boundaries of this province and of this nation and which, in fact, we find existing throughout the free world. It was interesting to note the solutions that were put forward by the opposition parties for curing the economic doldrums that we continue to experience. The opposition parties are no longer so critical of a programme of restraint in the public sector, because I think they have come to recognize that the public at large has accepted and commended the government for that position.

Mr. Breithaupt: They have not.

Mr. Williams: By having shown that leadership in restraint, it has made it more tolerable for the private sector and individuals at large to exercise restraint themselves. Most certainly this government has shown more action than perhaps any other government with regard to not only talking about fiscal restraint but implementing restraint in a very meaningful, responsible fashion.

An hon. member: That's why we have unemployment.

Mr. Williams: It has been suggested—notwithstanding the success of the approach that has been taken by this government—that this government should not try to continue to co-operate with the private sector in the sense of encouraging it to take on a more positive attitude toward the expansion of facilities, toward being more productive. Indeed, are we to act upon the suggestions that were put forward by the opposition the other day that any incentives by way of tax to industry would be inappropriate and wrong—that we should not be offering any further tax relief as inducements to industry to get back on the tracks? The fact of life is—and this is what the opposition parties continue to ignore—the productive part of our society

is in the private sector, and until there is productivity—

Mr. Lewis: What do you mean, the productive part of our society?

Mr. Williams: —there will not be the generation of capital or money—consumer dollars to permit the individual citizens of this country—

Mr. Philip: How productive is it for you to fly around in your own airplane?

Mr. Williams: —to enjoy, and continue to enjoy, the standards of living which they have come to appreciate.

Mr. Ferrier: We have to pay taxes in spite of it.

Mr. Lewis: You may be the single most unproductive member of the private sector. Don't attribute it to others.

Mr. Kerrio: Are businesses thriving in spite of your government?

Mr. Williams: What I think is most interesting, is that the opposition parties, and in particular the official opposition party, continue to carry on a performance that provides no degree of credibility to the public, simply because that party continues to refuse to deal with all elements of our society that have to be dealt with in order to bring a resolution to our problems. They continue to zero in on and blame industry for the woes of our society. They continue to attack government for its supposed excesses or lack of action, but not once will the opposition party—

Mr. Warner: Why don't you resign?

Mr. Cassidy: Good idea.

Mr. Williams: Not once have I heard any comment made by the opposition party with regard to the other third element in our society, which is so vital and important today, and that is the labour sector—

Mr. Philip: At least from the select committee.

Mr. Williams: —because without the three working together we cannot bring resolve to our problems.

Mr. Ferris: We surrender, John.

Mr. Williams: We have government, we have industry and we have labour; and so long as the opposition party will not address itself to finding responsible activity in the labour sector—

Mr. Kerrio: Are you going to let him run out the clock?

Mr. Williams: —as in industry, then there will never be a complete solution found to the problems. There has to be a co-operative effort made by all three if we are, indeed, to turn around our economy and bring ourselves to a healthier prosperity than exists today.

Mr. Ferris: Great speech, great speech.

Mr. McCague: You've got lots of time, John.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Take your time, John.

Mr. Breithaupt: Thanks for your help.

Mr. Williams: I think it would be refreshing and enlightening to have comment sometime, during the sitting of this House, from the official opposition with regard to the posture of labour in our society.

Mr. Wildman: Why, does it not sit up straight?

[9:30]

Mr. Williams: The absence of any dialogue in that particular sector—

Mr. Samis: You make John Bulloch sound like a flaming radical.

Mr. Williams: —is most noticeable and destroys their credibility. They continue to single out those people in society who are not involved in organized labour as being the wrongdoers in our society and—

Mr. Wildman: The unorganized workers of this province are downtrodden.

Mr. Williams: —yet do not have the audacity and candour to comment at least, if not criticize—

Mr. Samis: We worry for the people of Oriole.

Mr. Williams: —things that they see labour doing or not doing that are in the best interests of society as a whole.

Mr. Wildman: Give us an example.

Mr. Williams: And surely, Mr. Speaker, surely, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Wildman: Where do you stand on chocolate workers?

An hon. member: How about Neilson's chocolates?

Mr. Williams: —no one sitting in this House can assume that one of those three major factors in our society is completely devoid of any responsibilities or shortcomings. I think we have to fairly and honestly assess all of those sectors—

Interjections.

Mr. Williams: —the business sector, our own sector in which we are involved and the labour sector. It indeed would be refreshing if the leader of the official opposition would get up in the House and make a critical comment. It may be a positive one but I have yet to hear him get up and make—

Interjections.

Mr. Williams: —fair comment on that very important element of our society, because labour today is the—

Mr. Samis: This is the greatest non-speech since Themistocles U.

Mr. Williams: —biggest business that we have in this province.

Interjections.

Mr. Williams: I suggest that it is bigger than government.

Interjections.

Mr. Williams: I suggest that it is bigger than industry as a whole collectively.

Mr. Samis: You are absurd.

Mr. Williams: And as such, Mr. Speaker, I think it would be refreshing if the Leader of the Opposition would take the initiative to offer some co-operative suggestions between industry and labour rather than continuing to singularly single out the corporate sector as being the violators of all that is good and righteous in this province.

Interjections.

Mr. Williams: It would indeed be refreshing to have a new approach taken in that regard.

Interjections.

Mr. Williams: That would be an interesting experience.

An hon. member: I think you are ready for one, John.

Mr. Williams: So perhaps, Mr. Speaker—

An hon. member: Tell us about the impending industrial revolution.

Mr. Conway: You make Frank Drea sound coherent.

Mr. Williams: And, of course, that too is of interest, to find the old clichés coming about time and time again in this House—about the industrial revolution and—

Mr. Conway: Are you the reason for Lorne Maeck's bill?

Mr. Williams: —the fact that we are living in the 19th century. We keep hearing these clichés from the official opposition. They seem to place a great deal of merit in the fact that the strike process is current—

Mr. Conway: He is fit to be Minister of Northern Affairs.

Mr. Williams: —and is in fact finally, in this day and age—

Mr. Wildman: He is north of Queen's Park.

Mr. Williams: It's incredible, Mr. Speaker, to—

Mr. Conway: That's a good word; that's a good word, John.

Mr. Williams: —find that our socialist friends are so far behind in trying to find new ways and means of turning about—

An hon. member: I wish we could catch up to you.

Mr. Williams: —industrial labour, diminishing the industrial strife that exists in this nation—

Mr. Wildman: Are you in favour of industrial democracy?

Mr. Williams: I believe it was one of the leading American labour leaders who suggested four or five years ago that the strike process was archaic and had long ago served its useful purpose.

An hon. member: So have you.

Mr. Williams: New initiatives indeed have to be taken to prevent this nation from becoming what it has become, a nation with one of the highest incidences of lost labour man-hours because of the strike process. This cannot continue to exist—

Mr. Samis: Read the Star last night?

Mr. Ferris: Look at all the time you are wasting.

Mr. Williams: This cannot continue to exist if this country is to remain economically healthy and sound.

Mr. Conway: Or you either, John?

Mr. Williams: And, Mr. Speaker, in order to perhaps make the point, I would like to turn, if I might, to an address that was made by the president of one of our major manufacturing concerns, Westinghouse Canada Limited, an address that was made on March 8 of this year, when he was addressing the Financial Executives Institute of Canada in Winnipeg.

Mr. Breithaupt: An unimpeachable source.

Mr. Williams: There are some very sobering comments that were made in this address, so much so that I think they bear commenting upon this evening.

Mr. Conway: Make it a summary.

Mr. Samis: Just read it; don't comment.

Mr. Williams: It perhaps will highlight why, today, the talk about parity with our US workers is no longer discussed in this House, because at the very outset of his speech Mr. Marrs stated, and I will quote:

"I would say that we have become so preoccupied in this country with the redistribution of wealth that we have forgotten how to produce that wealth competitively. Canada has become the highest-cost producer in the world. Wages in manufacturing are now 65 cents an hour higher than in the US. Twelve years ago they were 50 cents an hour lower. Taxes are amongst the highest in the world."

Mr. Wildman: You levy the taxes over there.

Mr. Williams: "Despite the abundance of resources in this country, Canadian manufacturers pay world prices for materials. There are no longer any indigenous cost advantages for manufacturers in Canada; we have not only lost whatever advantage we once had, but are now at a competitive disadvantage."

Those, indeed, are sobering thoughts that come forward from that observation.

Mr. Lewis: I am certainly glad we have them in Hansard.

Mr. Conway: You make them all so believable.

Mr. Williams: We most certainly know that this is indeed one of the major reasons for our economic difficulties at this point of

time. We do not have the same productive capacity. What productive capacity we do have is over-priced. Canada is a nation of exporters, and if we cannot compete internationally then a very substantial part of our economic base is eroded. Without that economic base, of course, our own economic and social well-being in this province is indeed placed in jeopardy.

The president of Westinghouse, in speaking further on this difficult topic, pointed out that—

Mr. Conway: Is there any end to this, John?

Mr. Williams: Ten o'clock.

Mr. Conway: Is that your bed time?

Mr. Eakins: You're doing good. Keep it up.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Marrs suggested three significant and possible solutions to the problem. He pointed out, firstly, that Canada is now supporting a higher level of services with a lower level of manufacturing activity than any other industrialized country. He then poses the question as to whether, indeed, it is in Canada's best interests to allow the trend of the past 15 years, away from the production of goods and towards services, to continue.

Mr. Wildman: We agree with him there.

Mr. Williams: We must have greater encouragement in the manufacturing sector of our economy.

Mr. Davidson: You can't even draw a crowd in your own benches.

Mr. Samis: Look at Harry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Marrs did also point out that there may be advantages to our working our way back into the international marketplace by perhaps seeking wage parity with our US counterparts, which indeed is a reversal of the trend that has existed in previous years.

That, of course, Mr. Speaker, would be a much more difficult thing to attain than what was being sought several years ago when we were endeavouring to bring the income of the labour force up to the level of the labourers in the United States. Indeed, we are in a dilemma; we have over-priced ourselves. Both industry and labour have over-priced themselves.

Mr. Eakins: You are doing well, John, keep it up.

Mr. Williams: Government has tended to over-price itself in its excesses of spending.

Mr. Samis: What government are you a member of?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Williams: This government has come to recognize that it has been one of the contributing bodies in the public sector that has brought about this difficulty. We were one of the first to acknowledge it and one of the first to respond to that situation by bringing forward constructive, meaningful measures in the form of fiscal restraint and restraint in the expansion of government service.

Mr. Breithaupt: Only a billion in the hole.

Mr. Wildman: The electorate recognized it last election.

Mr. Williams: I think because this government has taken this initiative that there has been a degree of encouragement in the private sector, and also in the area of labour. But there has to be a continuing degree of responsibility displayed by the leaders of labour, by the captains of industry, in working co-operatively with this government if we are to succeed.

I stress again the need to consider all three of those components and not isolate ourselves and try to unrealistically place the blame at the feet of only one of those three sectors of our society.

So it appears that we have before us an ambitious government programme, as outlined in the Throne Speech; one which, as I indicated at the outset, appears to have received perhaps more positive comment from our opposition parties than can be remembered in recent history.

Mr. Riddell: Do they use you to drive us insane?

Mr. Cassidy: We are reconsidering after your speech.

Mr. Lewis: You didn't ask him to go beyond 10?

Mr. Eakins: John, did you say vicious?

Mr. Williams: No, I didn't. I think, Mr. Speaker, that it is encouraging to see an indication of support from the opposition parties to bring about—

Mr. Wildman: The longer you talk the less support you have got.

Mr. Williams: —the implementation of this ambitious government programme. There indeed is a need to proceed expeditiously to implement this programme, and that can surely only be achieved by the utmost co-operation from the members of both opposition parties. They have assured the government that this co-operation will be there. However, just as they have been perhaps suspect of the content of the Throne Speech until they see the legislation which will bring that programme into existence, so too, I think, we remain sceptical of the opposition parties—

Mr. Davidson: The long-awaited legislation.

Mr. Williams: —to see whether in fact they will participate in a constructive fashion in the business of the Legislature.

Mr. Ferris: In the fullness of time all things will unfold to us.

Mr. Williams: So Mr. Speaker, it is, I think, with a degree of optimism that I conclude my comments on the Throne Speech.

Mr. Breithaupt: Ours, not yours.

Mr. Williams: The optimism being founded, again, on the very positive programme that is being put forward by the government of the day, and one which, I think, with the co-operation of not only the opposition parties but industry and labour, can bring us through this economic period of crisis.

Mr. Speaker, it has indeed been a pleasure to have commented on the Throne Speech and I have appreciated this opportunity. Thank you very much.

[9:45]

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Warner: The Minister of Housing should stick around.

Mr. Davison: John, if you could listen to the previous speaker, you can listen to the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner).

Mr. Warner: I didn't even say anything and he left.

An hon. member: That's nothing new.

Mr. Kerrio: He should resign.

Mr. Warner: Mr. Speaker, I'll do the best to share the time properly so that my colleague in the Liberal caucus can get started this evening.

An hon. member: Stand up!

Mr. Warner: Would you know the difference?

An hon. member: Not if he had a hair cut.

Mr. Warner: Following the Throne Speech, it was commented by someone that a royal commission should be established to find the 10 people in the province to whom the Throne Speech did not apply. On the contrary, I think we need a commission to talk to the 323,000 unemployed people to whom this Throne Speech does not apply.

One of the segments that is hardest hit by the unemployment situation in our province, and for whom this Throne Speech does very little, are the new Canadians, particularly those new Canadians who are within Metropolitan Toronto. I think we should understand that when someone comes to this country from somewhere else, they have difficulties in adapting not only to a new language and a new culture, but to a new lifestyle—in some cases coming from a rural area of their country to an urban area in our country—and that often they have been exploited in terms of jobs.

These people have been taken advantage of because they do not speak the language well, because they do not understand the customs and because they are normally employed in non-union places with no one to protect them. They are the people who are most frequently the injured workers. They are the people who go to the Workmen's Compensation Board seeking redress for their grievances. They are the people who normally do not have a strong voice on their behalf on a daily basis.

I say quite frankly that the responsibilities as applied to how this society opens its doors to new Canadians rest not only with the provincial government but certainly, and firstly, with the federal government. Surely the responsibility for new Canadians does not end at Toronto International Airport. Such being the case, I don't understand why this government cannot continually go to Ottawa with proposals as to how the federal government can involve itself directly and importantly in helping the new Canadians who are trying to settle in our community. I don't understand why that isn't done.

I don't understand, for example, the reluctance of this provincial government to take

English as a second programme and to involve itself very directly in the funding as it's needed, not only in the schools but in the communities and on job sites.

There are some very good models to follow. The University of Windsor, for example, has been operating courses on the line at the auto plant in Windsor. The University of Toronto does a similar thing at the GM plant in Oshawa, offering university-level courses to workers. That kind of model has already been put into place. The universities know how to handle it; they know what they're doing. I don't understand why we can't extend that to teaching English as a second language. It's entirely possible, but it requires some direction by this government and a commitment to English as a second language.

I don't understand why we can't have the proper kind of teacher training so that teachers who go into the schools will understand the new Canadian communities and the kind of job that has to be done in the classroom is more than just the teaching of academics. It has been the experience, and the government well knows it has been the experience over the years, that for numerous reasons we end up with an inordinate number of new Canadians in vocational schools. This is largely because they are streamed off on the basis of reading scores; not academic ability, simply the ability to cope with the English language.

How does one overcome that? There are several ways. One is, as I have already mentioned, attacking the problem of teaching English as a second language directly in small classes and hiring those teachers directly. If the provincial government feels that it is too big a cost to bear they have a legitimate case to put at the doorstep of the federal government. But for goodness sake do something.

I think this government should seriously consider how it can bring in instruction in the first language of the student. Why the students should be forced to try and cope with that new language, be it English or French, without having the advantage of at least some time spent in their first language, I don't know; but it occurs.

If the government wants to work in the communities with those new Canadians so that they can learn English as a second language then surely it can do some very elementary things. I outlined a very simple kind of illustration that took place in my area in Scarborough, in Agincourt, where a volunteer group canvassed the community, found those mothers at home who wanted to

learn English as a second language, got space in the local school, asked the people when they wanted to come to school, and taught them the type of English they wanted to learn; that is sufficient to go to the grocery store, to communicate with their neighbours, to carry on some sort of normal function within their community. That was done inexpensively and to the gratitude of those new Canadians. That kind of effort needs to be put forward by this government.

The whole problem of new Canadians, as they have tried to adapt themselves to our community in Metro Toronto and have tried to be part of the Canadian society while still retaining their language and their culture, is that it has been focused through what the media has termed "racism"; that has been the focus of the issue. It is unfortunate that that focus has taken place, but it is there nonetheless, and we have to deal with it, and I think pretty directly.

There are two direct ways in which this government can deal with it. One obvious one is that the courts should be very tough on those offenders who are involved in racial assaults. That should not be tolerated, and those people should certainly be punished according to the utmost of the law. It isn't being done; it should be.

I think it is consented, and I suspect that many government members would agree, that there are some problems with the police force—in particular the Metro Toronto police force. It is not without some sort of history to it all, I understand that. It is not without the tension involved in carrying out the duties of the police force, I understand that. But for a variety of reasons there are racial biases built into some of the members of that police force. There is not a proper mix of ethnic background for the police force itself. That is why, at the very point when we are having racial problems, and we know that some of those problems are connected with the police force, we get the reversal by the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth) that we cannot have citizen boards, that we are going to continue with the police investigating themselves. Such being the case, perhaps there is little hope that that police force can go through the kind of change that it needs to go through.

It is not without co-operation from the ethnic community. New Canadian groups have approached the police on various occasions and offered to put on educational courses for those policemen to try to learn more about the language and culture and heritage of the various ethnic groups in Metropolitan Toronto. I really wish that the

police force would take the offer because it would go a long way toward helping with the problem.

No one could possibly go through the Throne Speech without talking about the Workmen's Compensation Board. Mr. Speaker, I want to leave the government with some of the frustrations that I have in trying to help those people who come into my office. I say quite frankly, at the time when I was elected in September, 1975, I came here with a very open, unbiased opinion about the Workmen's Compensation Board. I expected that the Workmen's Compensation Board was precisely what it said—it would compensate workers for injuries and it would give workers the benefit of the doubt. I expected that. I expected that when cases came before it, they would be dealt with judiciously and fairly; and they are not.

My experience has been a frustrating one. Today, a year and a half later, I find that the board does not co-operate. I find that some of my constituents are forced onto welfare rolls while awaiting a decision of the Workmen's Compensation Board. They are unable to work. The constituents who come into my office, Mr. Speaker, are often people who cannot seek employment elsewhere, and while they are waiting for the Workmen's Compensation Board to make a decision several months pass by. They run out of funds. They are forced onto the welfare rolls, a humiliating and degrading kind of experience for those people.

And the cases drag on. I find that I have been inheriting cases that are four and five and six years old. People who have gone back time and time again to the Workmen's Compensation Board, who are injured to the point where they can no longer work and yet receive no help from that board. And to add insult to injury, I sit here in the House hoping that this is a forum to discuss those problems and find a minister who will not acknowledge that there is one single problem with the board; a minister who defends that board beyond any point of credulity. I think it's about time that either this House straighten up that board or the minister resigns from her post.

An hon. member: Watch your language.

Mr. Martel: Don't swear. She will get mad.

Mr. Warner: I will carefully control my language.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Who would you put in her place?

Mr. Warner: Let's start with the member for Oriole. His enlightened view would fill the place nicely.

Mr. Conway: I nominate the member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Wildman: I nominate the member for Oriole.

Mr. Warner: Approximately 100,000 of the 323,000 people who are presently unemployed reside in the city of Metropolitan Toronto. And the hardest hit of that group are the construction trades with an approximately 35 per cent unemployment rate—

Mr. Philip: Dump truck operators.

Mr. Warner:—and that construction group is comprised mainly—not entirely but mainly—of new Canadians. Again, they are the hardest hit group of the unemployed.

And yet there is room for the government to move other than reshuffling. The announcements today were rather astounding, not that I don't believe in decentralization. That's something that should have happened a long time ago. The world does not begin and end in Toronto. It never has and it never should.

But decentralization is more than reshuffling. The government reshuffles workers from OHIP offices in Toronto to some other office in eastern Ontario and thinks that it solves an unemployment problem.

Mr. Eakins: Send them up to Victoria-Haliburton.

Mr. Warner: That's silly. It makes about as much sense as the reshuffling that went on amongst the cabinet. Mr. Speaker, it is very much like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.

If the government is really serious about jobs, then it is going to take an active role in the Metroplan issue. It is going to be involved in that critically, involved in meeting with the local officials of each of the boroughs and of the Metro Toronto government. Because Metroplan talks about decentralization. It talks about jobs, and housing and transportation. It talks about direct employment. It talks about fostering growth in a very real and meaningful way instead of shuffling things around.

Yet instead of an active involvement from this government, what we get first is the cutting back in funds for public transportation—not the capital funds, but the operating funds. And we still have the commitment to the building of expressways in this city. And make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker,

the grand plan is still there. The Fred Gardiner ideal of surrounding this city by expressways, by criss-crossing the city with expressways, is still alive and well in the hearts and minds of many members opposite. There are a few missing links, one of which is the Scarborough—

[10:00]

Mr. Wildman: Over there; the missing links are over there.

Mr. Davison: The member for Oriole.

Mr. Warner: Not making any personal references to members from Oriole.

Interjections.

Mr. Warner: The Scarborough Expressway is a missing link, as are the extension of the 400 and the cross-town expressway. Not for one minute are any of us over here deluded by the fact that the government has talked about public transit to derail us from what is the true initiative still there—the building of those expressways. It's not needed. It's not wanted, it should not happen.

Mr. Philip: Esther Shiner is really the Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Warner: When you talk to the labour unions, as I have and we do—I don't know if the members opposite do, but I doubt it.

An hon. member: You don't even know where you are.

Mr. Warner: But when you talk to the labour unions, what they say first is, "We want to be involved in socially useful projects, like building the LRT in Scarborough, and not building an expressway." You go back and see them, you talk to them.

Mr. Kerrio: He is being very unkind.

Mr. Warner: As is my custom, I send out a questionnaire to my constituents on a regular basis and the one that is presently in the process of being answered—

Mr. Kerrio: What did it say? Tell us.

Mr. Warner: I have approximately 500 to 600 responses, and the major response that is listed on there is unemployment, and the second major response is property taxes.

Mr. Eakins: What is the third?

Mr. Warner: People want to know what this government is doing to them. They want to know why their taxes are going up. They want to know why the tax system cannot be

sensitive to income. They've never had those answers from this government. What they get instead is an attack upon the Children's Aid Society, the YMCA, other useful community projects, small businessmen in the community. Yes, small businessmen, who are going to be asked to pay another 21 per cent in their property taxes, while the distilleries will have a decrease of 40 per cent in their taxes.

Some hon. members: Shame.

Mr. Warner: The government then turns around and says, "Ah, but wait. The tenants in this province will get a break in property taxes."

Mr. Wildman: That's why they didn't allow beer at the ball park; so the 40-ouncers could go instead.

Mr. Warner: The government turns around and says the tenants will get a break in property taxes. That's part of the Blair commission report. What it doesn't say is how the tenants will get a break in their taxes. Those tax rebates will likely go back to the owners. Let's see if they're passed on to the tenants. I doubt it; I doubt that it will help at all. Since some members of the government opposition are looking for constructive suggestions—

Mr. Philip: Not construction suggestions.

Mr. Warner: Constructive suggestions—I'll lay out one again. The government over there introduced some very useful legislation last year that allows the Metro government to designate lanes for the express purpose of buses, taxis and cars with designated numbers of passengers. It is one of the approaches to transportation, one of the desperately needed approaches. But it was done simply as putting it on a plate. There was no follow-up to it; no suggestion as to how they parallel that with rail service, as to how they will help the municipalities with the rail transit that's needed or improving the bus service. You have to do more than just put things out on a plate, you have to follow it up with some action.

Mr. Eakins: What's your priority, David?

Mr. Warner: The other little item that's come up, and my colleague from Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) mentioned it earlier today, is the whole problem of condominiums. What is so annoying to me and to the residents in my riding who live in condominiums is that a while back the government told them not to apply for reassessment on their condominium. "Don't do that. Everything will be ironed out in the future." But then, lo

and behold, rebates were issued to those who had applied, and those who had taken the government advice not to apply didn't get any money. Surely those rebates should come back in an orderly fashion over the next some years, so that some equity is gained for those owners of condominiums.

Mr. Philip: P. T. Barnum approach to government.

Mr. Warner: Heaven knows, they've got enough problems with the condominiums themselves. When the roof leaks and it takes \$15,000 to repair it—that ends up in a maintenance budget to be split by the owners of the condominiums, not by the building. And the list goes on and on and on.

In summary, I really do think that the Throne Speech could have been useful had it done two things: Had it addressed the problem of unemployment in this province, so that the 323,000 people could get back to work; and had it provided some good sound economic direction—a little more than simply opting into the AIB and all those wondrous effects that the government thinks it will have.

I don't know when the next election will come and, in some sense, I really don't care. Whenever it comes, I'm ready to fight those very non-policies about employment and economic priorities that his government has set for 34 years. It's time for a change.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate in the Throne Speech debate. At this time last year, I afforded the members of the Legislature a little background on the constituency of Wentworth North. Tonight, I'd like to share with you my concerns about a number of subjects. I offer these comments in the hope that in a small way, they help to build a better Ontario.

I was gratified to see in the Speech from the Throne that the province will not unnecessarily involve itself in freezing land at the expense of the farmer. Many of us—especially in southwestern Ontario—are concerned about the evaporation of good farmland. There is not likely a constituency in that part of the province, where good farm land—soil classes one to four—have not been ploughed under for industrial or residential purposes. What is worse is the large number of acres held by speculators that lie idle year after year. There are also a tremendous number of small farms that are hardly productive. The farmer can barely make an existence, yet cannot effectively or profitably dispose of his land.

I believe the small farm today is a basic element of our private enterprise system and very vital to our social and economic fabric in this province. It must be protected. As essential as it is to recognize the importance of protecting the land and the farm, we must also give serious consideration to the preservation of the farmer. While the liberally improved Farm Income Stabilization Act may help protect some farmers, we have a long way to go in compensating farmers appropriately, ensuring the farm family a decent standard of living and a fair return on its investment.

A major problem that we face in preserving agricultural land is the problem of land-use planning itself. Since the implementation or should I say imposition, of regional government in my area, we have been awaiting the establishment of a regional plan. The authorities of the Hamilton-Wentworth region have just recently tabled their plans. In the interval, many farmers have gone by the board while some of our best farm land has been developed. Small and non-viable areas should be developed. Areas of prime soil classes one to four should be preserved—but, again, not necessarily at the expense of the individual owner of the farm. The province would do well to consider the development of a compensation plan to provide adequate compensation to farmers wishing to dispose of their lands.

The best method of protecting our farms would be to ensure that agriculture is once again a profitable means of earning a living. Improved methods of supply management, farm income stabilization, greater consumer awareness, and better foreign trade agreements will assist us all as farmers and consumers.

Ontario is not alone in facing the serious problem of unemployment. For many decades, Ontario was insulated from the effects of recession that caused severe hardship in other parts of this country. For the first time in many years, our unemployment level has reached what has to be the danger level. Clearly, it is a reflection on our economy in this province. At the same time, the current high level of unemployment in Ontario has a very severe effect on our economy.

From my perspective, the current situation reflects our preoccupation as a province with resource-oriented industries intent only on the export of our non-renewable resources. Clearly, over the past 20 years, we have been negligent in building up a diverse, productive manufacturing sector. Our preoccupation with priority industry has unnecessarily tied our economy to those of other nations.

The question naturally arises: "What do we do when our resources are totally exploited?" The hollow rhetoric of commitments to equality of economic opportunity for all Ontarians will not wash with our unemployed, especially our young people; nor will it be accepted in northern and eastern Ontario where the economic disparity is most severe.

While the increase in unemployment can be directly related to the economic recession in Ontario, much of it must be related to a costly educational system that leaves so many of our young people ill equipped and poorly trained for the future. Many of our trades programmes are a disgrace.

Instead of exporting manufactured goods, Ontario has involved itself unnecessarily in the export of our young people. We train doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers for other countries.

Mr. Bain: Isn't that what Prime Minister Trudeau suggested?

Mr. Cunningham: While our nurses and teachers leave for other countries or work in restaurants or drive taxi-cabs, we continue to graduate more teachers and nurses.

Mr. Bain: Especially cab drivers.

Mr. Cunningham: This is all done at the expense of the Ontario taxpayer while, at the same time, disrupting families and friendships.

Mr. Bain: How about lawyers?

Mr. Cunningham: With educational costs on the rise, it is now more important than ever that our entire educational system be more practical and oriented to employment after graduation or completion of studies.

Mention was made in the Speech from the Throne of the creation of a Ministry of Northern Affairs. Having travelled through many parts of the north, I can say that the creation of such a ministry will do little for the people of our north.

Mr. Bain: Let's vote against it.

Mr. Cunningham: If all the ministries we do have would do an effective job, no such ministry would be needed. Its creation further recognizes the unequal treatment that our northern citizens receive.

Reference was made by Her Honour to some changes in The Environmental Assessment Act. I look forward to seeing these changes and welcome any move designed to protect our citizens in northern Ontario while,

at the same time, developing appropriate, reasonable and co-operative development of resources there. While there is little argument that the record of the existing Conservative government in preserving and protecting the environment in southern Ontario is poor, it is dismal in northern Ontario.

It is little wonder, in these days of lead pollution, DDT, PCBs, mercury poison, human waste pollution, landfill sites, sulphur emissions and air pollution, that the average person in the province of Ontario is sceptical of our commitment to the environment. The inability of our statutes to effectively protect our citizens from abuse causes me to seriously question the sincerity of the government and the incumbent minister, who said: "The polluter will pay." To date, whatever fines have been levied in this province represent only a licence to continue to pollute.

The Speech from the Throne refers to the government's "continuing commitment to clean air and water and a healthy environment [which] will be advanced through amendments to The Environmental Protection Act, The Ontario Water Resources Act, and The Pesticides Act." Associated with these amendments, I would say, should be a commitment by the minister to improve the quality of the Environmental Assessment Board, the Environmental Appeal Board and the Pesticides Appeal Board, which all have recently become repositories for the current minister's political cronies.

One of the most serious problems facing us as a province and a nation is the development of an appropriate energy policy. Our entire way of life revolves around energy, most of which is non-renewable. If we expect to continue to enjoy a high standard of living in Ontario, we will have to dedicate ourselves to a sincere conservation programme.

During consideration of the energy estimates last year, I suggested that the sales tax be removed on insulation products. At the time, the incumbent minister didn't seem particularly impressed with that but, eventually, I realized the tax was removed.

Mr. Philip: He warmed up to the idea, Eric.

Mr. Cunningham: I would think some of his cabinet colleagues warmed up to the idea.

I would respectfully suggest that we consider further tax incentives to encourage real energy conservation. Any product related to housing insulation and energy savings should be made tax-exempt. Likewise, the costs of insulation improvements or double-glazing of windows should be made partially tax deduc-

tible at least. This would add further incentive to both business and individuals to properly insulate their businesses or homes and thereby save valuable fuel.

[10:15]

At the same time, serious consideration should be given immediately to restructuring the rate system of Ontario Hydro. Currently there is little incentive for the home owner to save hydro with the current system which continues to cost the consumer more and more every year. Clearly the less you use, the less you should pay. This would be of particular benefit to the penny-wise and especially to our senior citizens and those on fixed incomes whose hydro demands are less than the rest of us. Currently their rates are structured at the highest level. That is unfair.

No one contemplating environmentally aesthetic improvements should expect increases in their assessment. A guarantee to that effect should be made to all home and cottage owners. No one in Ontario need be penalized for saving energy. To that end, we would do well to consider making a real effort to develop the use of solar energy for residential construction. I would hope that many of our students will consider making summer jobs out of insulation activities. These are things that must be done.

Notwithstanding any commitment by our federal government, we must proceed with better forms of rapid transit. It is not my place to be provocative, but our record in this regard has been poor. The job must be done. It must be done as quickly as possible.

The day of the big V-8 cars should be just about over. Clearly we cannot afford to have cars that operate at 12 to 13 miles per gallon. The sooner our North American car manufacturers adjust to the realities of our energy limitations, the sooner they will protect themselves from extinction as a result of Japanese and European domination. Our licensing and tax structure should improve incentives for smaller energy-conserving cars.

All cars should be required to submit to a yearly or twice-yearly engine tune-up. This would reduce oil consumption and emissions, and save fuel. Ontario Hydro would do well to remember the mood of the select committee on rate increases. At the same time, serious consideration should be given to returning to water generated hydro. The growing cost of fossil fuels will seriously undermine our ability to use non-renewable fuel as a source of energy in the future.

It's obvious to me from the Minister of Energy's (Mr. Taylor) statement last week that this province has no energy policy what-

soever. Our party has over the years consistently warned the government of the necessity to come to grips with the reality of energy shortages and to develop a fair, pragmatic, comprehensive energy policy. Canada has a higher per capita use of energy than the United States, Holland, Great Britain, Japan, West Germany, Switzerland and France. Our survival depends on the development of an intelligent conservation-oriented energy policy.

The commitment in the Throne Speech to encourage our young people to study French as a second language is welcome on my part. At the same time I recognize and commend the government's recognition of our many ethnic heritages through the government's commitment to the heritage language programme.

A major consolation to those interested and dedicated to seeing a decent standard of living afforded to the less fortunate was the appointment of the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton) to the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Obviously it is an improvement over his predecessor, who could only be described as being slightly right of Attila the Hun. Hopefully he may convince his colleagues of the need to raise family benefit assistance to reflect the increase in cost of living. To ignore these people who cannot help themselves is cruelty at its highest.

The indication that the province will provide assistance for small business should be welcomed by all parties of this Legislature. We, in the Liberal Party, have a basic commitment to competition and diversity as essential elements of a solid and prosperous economy. The small business sector employs between 50 and 60 per cent of all working Canadians. Clearly, the future prosperity of this province will relate directly to our ability to promote and encourage those involved in small business.

Mr. Philip: Where do you stand on Bill C-42, Eric?

Mr. Cunningham: It is encouraging that the Treasurer has finally recognized the importance of the small business sector. This appears to be a departure from his recent submission to the royal commission on corporate concentration wherein he said:

"While I can accept the need for more government presence in certain aspects of government activity, at the same time I also accept the fact that in many sectors, businesses are going to be larger and more concentrated in the future. I do not think we

should necessarily resist this trend with outdated notions of competition between a large number of small firms."

That, in essence, I would think would reflect the feelings of the current Treasurer and Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs—clearly a big fan of big business concentration of interests.

For some time I have suggested a meaningful review of the operations of the Workmen's Compensation Board. Most members of this House—yourself I'm sure included, Mr. Speaker—have experienced nothing but frustration in dealing with this board. We've all heard the stories of late cheques, no cheques at all, misplaced correspondence, senseless correspondence and misplaced or lost files. Nobody wins with this kind of misadministration.

The costs go up tremendously. These are passed along to business and labour. The net result is a high cost to small businesses, many of which are over-assessed already. In many instances this reduces the possibility of jobs. The cost associated with this confusion at the Workmen's Compensation Board undermines its ability to pay or compensate people at a humane or decent level. This is a real tragedy. A review of its operation is long overdue and should be welcomed by all members of this Legislature.

Notwithstanding the serious problem of unemployment, the most pressing problem facing us all as legislators is inflation itself. It, without doubt, is the cruellest tax of all. It is imposed without regard on every one of us. It fosters greed—self-interest in the pursuit of higher prices, higher profits, higher wages and higher salaries. It affects every citizen—those on fixed incomes, the young couple striving to buy a home, the average taxpayer who works every day to improve or at least provide a decent standard of living for his or her family. It is not an easy time for these people.

There are no easy, short-term solutions to inflation. We all know that a lower rate of inflation usually occurs at the expense of higher unemployment. Federal finance minister Donald Macdonald appears to recognize this. While there are no simplistic or easy answers to this problem, one thing governments can do is attempt to reduce their own expenditures.

To this end I was pleased to see in the Speech from the Throne at least a vague continued commitment to some form of restraint. The former federal auditor general, Max Henderson, in his report last year, made 184 recommendations, I believe, where sav-

ings to the taxpayers could be effected in this province. While the progress to date has not been particularly encouraging, I look forward to seeing meaningful efforts to cut out many areas of waste.

My concern in this regard emanates from our very serious deficit position. A key factor affecting our economy has been the impact of government on industrial society. The end of the last war saw the end of our laissez faire system of economics and the advent of Keynesian policy through continuing government spending as a factor in our gross national product. Initially, this government involvement was welcome and created stability where it might not have otherwise existed. It created jobs and reduced the extent of job dislocation.

Unfortunately, there are some serious ramifications associated with such government involvement in any economy. Currently, over 40 per cent of our gross national product relates directly to government spending. Our dollar has deteriorated in value to the detriment of everybody. That inflation must be directly associated with this, and has contributed in so many ways to selfish demands by manufacturers for their goods and labour for their services. The increased cost in the product or service, be it through the public sector or the private sector, has caused great hardship for our senior citizens and those on fixed incomes.

This province has played a significant force in accommodating itself to the period. The Hon. Leslie M. Frost, in 1944 in his budget address—he was Treasurer then, at the same time—said: “We are building not only for these times, we are planning for a greater population, for industrial explosion, for prosperous farms, for happy and healthy people. We are laying a sure foundation for a greater and stronger Ontario.”

Those, Mr. Speaker, were the days. In that year, our net expenditures stood at \$132 million. Twenty-six years later in 1971 the provincial net expenditure had reached \$4.2 billion, more than 32 times that 1945 level.

Mr. Wildman: Thirty-two times in 26 years.

Mr. Cunningham: The budget last year provided for spending of \$11.7 billion and revenue of \$10.8 billion. Our current Treasurer refers to this shortfall as a “net cash requirement.” As a realist, I prefer to call it debt.

For the past two years, projected net cash requirements have been underestimated by

\$200 million. We learned last week that our shortfall currently is \$158 million.

Referring to the Treasurer's foresight, the late member for London North (Mr. Shore) was quoted as follows: “One can place less confidence in the Treasurer's forecast in view of the historical evidence which shows that the provincial government makes a practice of underestimating expenditures, and, I must submit, in many instances overestimating its revenues.”

Our preoccupation in Ontario with government empire-building has stretched our financial limitations to real extremes. In 1976 we spent \$766 million on debt retirement. That excludes the debt of Ontario Hydro. When compared to our annual rate of growth from 1972 to 1976 it represents 20.8 per cent, the highest rate in Canada. Our total debt in Ontario in 1976 was \$3.59 billion. In 1975 it was \$1.9 billion. There can be no question that we have gone wrong. The current government solution has been to fund these deficits and interest payments with taxpayers' pension funds and through capital markets abroad.

I was listening this afternoon to the Treasurer indicating his commitment to relocate different government offices across the province and I commend him on that decentralization effort. We have been suggesting it for a number of years. Recognizing that so much of our money is borrowed in Germany, I think he would probably be inclined to relocate the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs in Munich.

The current government solution I have to reject, as far as its borrowing practices are concerned. We cannot continue to borrow the extensive amount of money that we have from pension plans—\$128 million from the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System, for instance; \$750 million from the Canada Pension Plan; \$228 million from the Teachers Superannuation Fund. To date, Ontario has borrowed \$4.4 billion from the Canada Pension Plan and the annual interest on that is about \$340 million. Eventually, in the not too distant future, we will wear out our welcome there.

In 1976-1977 we will borrow \$813 million from the Canada Pension Plan, \$330 million from the Teachers Superannuation Fund, another \$180 million from the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System. Our total net cash requirements for 1976-1977 will be \$1,388 million. This is again \$158 million more than originally forecast by the Treasurer.

Big government means waste, whether it is at the federal, provincial, or municipal level. A waste in government stimulates inflation, which means paying more for less. When a citizen pays more and gets less, he cannot distinguish between jurisdictions. He feels powerless and confused. The incentive to work hard, to produce, to economize, is undermined seriously.

The effect of big government on private enterprise is just as serious. Taxes increase to accommodate a growing civil service. Red tape and government interference become further road-blocks to effective corporate managements. Profits decline, unemployment results. The time has come to clarify the judicial and legislative process so the people know where they stand when they wish to invest money or remedy a problem. How can this be done?

Last summer I had the pleasure of meeting in the United States with the congressional committee on small business. Not only do they look at methods of helping people in that particular sector, but they also make specific recommendations to government on ways of reducing its own growing bureaucracy. Agencies, boards, commissions, et cetera are studied, reviewed; their effectiveness and worth are re-assessed; as a result of this committee some are being disbanded. The same thing should be done in the province of Ontario. We would do well to consider such an activity. We have a multitude of boards and commissions which serve no purpose, save only maybe a haven for political appointments to defeated Tory candidates.

Many members have read the memo that appeared in the *Globe and Mail* in the not too distant future quoting a high official in the Ministry of Government Services—

An hon. member: It appeared in the future?

Mr. Foulds: Your verb tense is correct—"appeared".

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Could the hon. member find an appropriate place to terminate his remarks? We have reached the time for adjournment.

[10:30]

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I would conclude now by asking who let the hon. member for Sudbury East out of his cage, and I'll sit down right now.

I got the wrong guy, I'm sorry.

Mr. Cassidy: That was gratuitous.

Mr. Martel: Know what you're talking about before you start to howl.

Mr. Cunningham: I'll sit here and listen to you.

Mr. Mackenzie: You've got a long way to go.

Mr. Laughren: Don't bother.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order please.

An hon. member: Get back in your cage, Eric; crawl under your rock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Cunningham, would you move the adjournment of the debate?

Mr. Cunningham moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In accordance with the provisions of standing order 27(g) and provisional rule 4, appropriate notice has been given by the members for Nickel Belt and Sudbury East and in accordance with standing order 28(a), I deem a motion to adjourn to have been made. I will recognize the hon. member for Nickel Belt for five minutes, and the minister will have five minutes if she chooses to reply.

Mr. Breithaupt: Betty will fix you.

CANCER AND ASBESTOS

Mr. Laughren: Thank you Mr. Speaker: We are here because the minister and the Workmen's Compensation Board have refused to recognize laryngeal cancer as a compensable disease. It is truly worthy of more than a 10-minute debate and I shall suggest a route which I hope will be more fruitful than I suspect this debate will be before I conclude my remarks.

I shall attempt also to deal with the issue without any kind of rhetoric or passion, although I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, it's difficult to do so once you've spent any time at all with people like Aime Bertrand, who is of the Sudbury area. He and other workers in this province, are truly leading, as someone said, "lives of quiet desperation," waiting for some kind of justice to be dispensed by the government.

The facts as I see them are that Aime Bertrand's work history includes 30 years as a maintenance mechanic in the Inco operations in the Sudbury area and include exposure, not only to one carcinogen but many,

including such compounds as nickel, copper, iron, zinc, lead, selenium, cadmium, cobalt, arsenic, asbestos, and sulphur dioxide.

There has been much medical evidence brought to the fore since the debate with the minister and the Workmen's Compensation Board ensued around Mr. Aime Bertrand, including—and I shall put some of those on the record—a letter from Dr. A. Cecilioni of Hamilton. He stated: "Enclosed are the results of the analysis of the sample of Aime's hair which I just received in the mail. The cadmium and nickel content do not appear above normal, but the silica content is quite high, 46 parts per million, and even higher is silicon dioxide, 98 parts per million. Since a major ingredient or component of asbestos is silica and silicates, I believe you have sufficient grounds to repeal the Workmen's Compensation Board's decision." That was Dr. Cecilioni's quote.

And then he says: "In conclusion, I would say that the Workmen's Compensation Board and the appeal board should review and reconsider their decision in rejecting the claim of Mr. Aime Bertrand, especially in the light of our present knowledge about the effect of prolonged exposure to not only one but many carcinogenic agents, both gaseous and particulate, that are present in the work place. Some of these have an additive or a synergistic effect when combined with cigarette smoking." That was Dr. Cecilioni.

Then Dr. Selikoff, a world renowned expert on the effects of exposure to asbestos and various forms of cancer, prepared a report in which he followed 17,800 insulation workers, workers who had been exposed to asbestos between 1967 and 1975. Dr. Selikoff came up with the following statistics for different kinds of cancer.

Lung cancer; the expected death rate was 92.28, the observed was 427. Two different kinds of mesothelioma; the expected was zero because of the nature of mesothelioma, the actual was 52 and 92. Esophagus cancer; 5.77 expected, 16 observed. Stomach cancer; 12.71 expected, 22 observed. Colon-rectum; 33.89 expected, 53 observed. Larynx, 4.45 expected, nine observed.

Mr. Lewis: Every one of those should be compensable.

Mr. Laughren: Oral pharynx, 7.41 expected, 17 observed. Kidney, 7.08 expected 17 observed.

And the minister, of course, has decided that larynx cancer will not be one of the ones that is accepted. Yet those are the results of Dr. Selikoff's studies; and I might add that

the minister has not refuted those in any acceptable manner whatsoever.

Back in December, 1976, this whole matter was raised during the estimates debate and Dr. McCracken at that time testified that there was no proven causal effect. At that time he did not mention the fact that the Workmen's Compensation Board had undertaken a study. Now he says in an interview with the Globe and Mail that he has indeed undertaken such a study. Why he did not mention it at that time is something that perhaps the minister could explain to us. So we are in a position now where, despite the work history of this man for almost 30 years, despite the epidemiological studies of Dr. Selikoff, despite Dr. Cecilioni's reports, despite Dr. Ritchie's warning about cancer of the larynx, the Workmen's Compensation Board goes out and seeks contrary evidence, despite the proclamations of the minister that the benefit of doubt goes to the worker, in order to refute the claim of Dr. Selikoff.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member's time has expired.

Mr. Laughren: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final statement would be that I would ask the minister, since she is apparently unwilling to change the position of the board, to appoint a medical referee to determine and dispense justice in the case of Mr. Aime Bertrand and any other worker who has been exposed to asbestos and ends up with cancer of the larynx.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Labour has up to five minutes for her reply.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the basis of the establishment of a disease as an occupational disease and, therefore, one directly related to the hazards of the work place and therefore compensable, is in fact the consensus of informed opinion of a number of reputable scientific experts as determined from critical examination of all the relevant retrospective and clinical research available. As I have explained to the hon. members in the past, and as I will say again, just as one swallow doth not a summer make, one researcher doth not a scientific fact make.

Interjections.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It is well to remember that science is not infallible—

Mr. Deans: We in fact agree with that.

Hon. B. Stephenson:—and that indeed it is necessary to have a number of studies done in order to develop the kind of informed opinion upon which a responsible decision can be made.

Interjections.

Mr. Philip: How many cadavers do you want for evidence?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the Workmen's Compensation Board differs in no way from any other responsible group of people attempting to make rational decisions for the benefit of the people they serve.

Interjections.

Hon. B. Stephenson: That is precisely what is being done in this case. The situation report upon which the hon. member has requested tonight's discussion is that indeed a report was prepared by Dr. Selikoff. I would reiterate again that although I believe that Dr. Selikoff is a dedicated researcher, it would be appreciated by all of his colleagues who are just as dedicated and just as expert throughout the world if he would at some time publish his findings, which he has never done, in order to permit them to be subjected to the critical scrutiny of his peer group which is the basis upon which valid scientific decisions can be made.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: Oh that is slander, blasphemy.

Mr. Davidson: Why is he recognized as a world expert?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Let's have some order please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Dr. Selikoff is recognized as an expert in the world. There are several others who are recognized as just as expert in various places around the world.

Mr. Lewis: Like whom?

Mr. Laughren: McCracken? Name one.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am not going to name Dr. McCracken, of course. Dr. Mollie Newhouse of Great Britain is also an expert.

Mr. Lewis: And she agrees with Selikoff right down the line. She agrees with everything he has written.

Hon. B. Stephenson: In addition, as a matter of fact, we will present to this House a

report from Dr. Newhouse, when it is received in full form—

Mr. Lewis: Oh yes, sure.

Hon. B. Stephenson:—which in fact does not agree with Dr. Selikoff.

Mr. Lewis: She came to the conference.

Hon. B. Stephenson: There was a document presented by Dr. Selikoff to Dr. McCracken at Dr. McCracken's request. It was indeed given to Dr. Miller, who was the epidemiologist who was asked by the board to examine all of the information provided in Dr. Ritchie's study about asbestos and cancer. Dr. Miller has examined Dr. Selikoff's report and I would like to read one paragraph of his letter. The entire letter I will submit to the hon. member for Wentworth who asked for it.

Dr. Miller states in the final paragraph of his letter: "I feel that we are no further ahead than we were before. The data we now have from Dr. Selikoff if anything makes us less certain of the relationship than we were with the earlier data; and since we have no fresh data at this time we must proceed with our own study in order to establish a valid situation."

Mr. Philip: Because they do nothing to start them.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Here is precisely what is happening: A study has been established. It is being carried out by reputable scientists in Canada. There is yet a further study in Great Britain which is being carried out. It is anticipated that we shall have some results within the next two or three months on this study—the European study—and there will be results, hopefully, within six months to 12 months from our own study. On the basis of this compendium of information, it should be possible to make a decision which is valid and which will stand up. In the meantime, I have promised—

Mr. Davidson: You are stalling again.

Hon. B. Stephenson:—that I would, indeed, reexamine the case of Mr. Bertrand, which I shall do—

Mr. Laughren: Can't you lead sometimes?

Hon. B. Stephenson:—in order to try to establish any kind of relationship with the other materials to which he has been exposed. But a causal relationship must be established if, indeed, compensation boards anywhere in the world are to function respon-

sibly on behalf of the people that they are designed to serve.

Interjection.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I now recognize the hon. member for Sudbury East for five minutes.

Mr. Deans: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I understand the minister to say she was going to send me something.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. There is nothing out of order. The official opposition asked for five minutes to discuss this.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Mr. Martel: This afternoon I raised the question with respect to the fact that there seemed to be a growing number of cases that were going unsatisfied and workers were having difficulty. The minister responded, no, this wasn't the case.

In my own riding office in the past 11 months we have handled 457 claims; that doesn't include the ones we've sent back to the union or unions in the Sudbury area, because the union official was working on it. It doesn't include those we just gave advice to. Those were actual involvements. For example, yesterday we had 15 in my office, a daily occurrence of four to five to six workers. And, tomorrow, Jim Hickey of the United Steel Workers will handle seven cases before the appeal tribunal in Sudbury or the appeal board; one on my behalf, seven for his own membership.

The minister also said today in her response that 91 per cent of the people were satisfied with the way they were handled. I'm going by her statistics. There were 433,000 claims last year. That means that nine per cent weren't satisfied and that represents 38,970 workers who are dissatisfied.

Mr. Warner: That's right.

Mr. Martel: And if we include their families, we are talking about 150,000 to 160,000 people who are affected by the delays that occur at the Workmen's Compensation Board. In my office I see people who are financially destitute. I see quarrels between the husband and wife. I have seen in the past month two marriage break-ups. I have seen functional overlays. I have seen despair.

Because of the inability to cope with the problems and the stupidity—and I say stupidity advisedly, because of the decisions

which are coming from the board despite adequate medical information to get claims established. And the reasons given are the most stupid reasons—lost files, a lack of medical information. They don't tell the worker, "We need more medical information; we'll give you three weeks to get it." They cut his damn cheque off. Well, that's stupidity, in my opinion.

So the worker doesn't realize his cheque is cut off. He waits his two weeks for his next cheque. He figures it's in the mail. He waits another week or so. He finally shows up at our doorstep. He has been three, four, five weeks without a pay cheque and the board hasn't even advised him that he's been terminated. And this isn't one or two cases—this is many, many cases. And all of my colleagues can tell the minister the same thing, all of us. It is so depressing. Let me give you a couple of examples, Mr. Speaker.

Here's a man who was taken out of work by his doctor on January 23—by his doctor's instruction. An investigation was conducted and finally I got involved—about two and a half weeks ago. Last Thursday we got a decision—10 weeks.

[10:45]

Here's the type of letter you get from the Workmen's Compensation Board: "According to our present policy and regulations, we can only consider payment for cost of travel that is necessary. There is adequate treatment available in Noelville." Well, the one doctor there that day happened to be at the Olympics. I don't know where he was supposed to get treatment. The board decides it is not going to pay. So they paid \$20 for 60 trips back and forth to Sudbury. That's the sort of treatment.

Mr. Seguin, a constituent of mine, writes, "I appeared before the board on Dec. 22. I am still awaiting a decision." The man has been out of work since December. What the hell do I do with him? The minister says to me, "Well, your language is bad." What do I do with a father of four children who cries in my office because he has no income and he won't go to the welfare in Sudbury because of one Mr. Paul Schack, who degrades people so badly they refuse to go on welfare. The minister's people know it in Sudbury. What do I do with a Mr. Willard Dupont when a Dr. Morrison Mitchell, whom the minister knows, writes the following letter:

"May I at least have an immediate reply acknowledging this letter? I find that you simply ignore my letters, my phone calls to your office in Sudbury, and ignore the fact

that the man has been examined on several occasions by you or your consultants." And that's turned down. Morrison Mitchell is the president of the Workmen's Compensation Board, he's the president of the PC organization in Sudbury, and also a doctor.

What do you have when you have a report from a neurosurgeon and the doctor says, "In my opinion there remains a period of approximately nine to 10 months when the patient received 50 per cent compensation benefits, when it is my contention that he should have received 100 per cent. My reason for stating this is that the patient is not and has not been able to return to work." That's a neurosurgeon's report, and it's turned down. It just goes on. Mrs. Yang, who's been tested for retraining, grade 13 equivalent—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's time has expired.

Mr. Martel: Thank you; just one final statement, Mr. Speaker. A brilliant girl, could be retrained for anything, one year on compensation, and they haven't started the training programme. The minister wonders why we stand over here in despair and I want to tell her it's because of the stupidity. Until she decentralizes that bloody office those workers aren't going to get a fair shake.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I rise to respond to the hon. member for Sudbury East in the only way that I can.

Mr. Davidson: Defensively.

Hon. B. Stephenson: If indeed the hon. members do have specific difficulties with certain sections of the Workmen's Compensation Board—

Mr. Warner: How many hundred do you want?

Mr. Davidson: When will you stop protecting that board?

Hon. B. Stephenson: —it would be extremely helpful to me if indeed they could document them for me, so that I may trace them through the system in order to try to find out where the problems lie.

An hon. member: Can you handle 1,000 cases?

Mr. Cassidy: Make the system work.

Mr. Warner: That's not the question.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I have specifically asked the administration of the board to examine very carefully the claims section because it seemed to me last year that that was an area in which problems were arising.

As a result of my request a specific area in the claims section has been established in order to ensure that claims will be expedited as rapidly as possible. As a result of that activity, almost 50 per cent of initial claims are now being handled totally within three days. That I think is a very real achievement, when a very large number of claims is received every hour within the board.

Decentralization may in fact be an answer eventually. At the moment and for the past several months the board has been attempting to automate the claims system and the information system so that indeed the computer terminals at the various regional offices could be activated in order to provide instant information for those requesting information at the various regional offices.

Mr. Foulds: The local board office uses my constituency secretary.

Hon. B. Stephenson: At the end of February this year, that system was completed, and at this time instant information can be obtained by anyone inquiring of the regional office about any claim which they have concern about.

It is important, I think, to remember that indeed this is a very large organization dealing with a very large number of people in very unfortunate and unhappy circumstances.

Mr. Wildman: Decentralize.

Mr. Davidson: Then spread it out.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The Workmen's Compensation Board has decentralized quite dramatically in the last four years.

Mr. Laughren: Not true.

Hon. B. Stephenson: They have developed regional offices with much more competence than they previously had.

Mr. Davidson: You still have to get all the answers in Toronto. No decision-making.

Hon. B. Stephenson: And the impetus toward improved claims activity, improved appeal mechanisms and improved rehabilitation services is a matter that I have been specifically concerned about.

Mr. Davidson: Why do the problems still exist, then?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I'm pleased to tell you that within the next several months there are going to be almost double the numbers of vocational rehabilitation officers, who thereby, as a result of a smaller case load, will be able to deal much more rapidly and I think much more effectively with the

vocational rehabilitation of those individuals who require that kind of service.

There are specific problems which do arise as a result of late medical reports. There is no doubt about that at all, and it is difficult to ensure—

Mr. Davidson: Cases 10 years old?

Mr. Warner: And to lose files?

Hon. B. Stephenson: —that indeed the medical reports do arrive on time. Cases which have been dealt with in the past are sometimes reported inadequately medically and must be re-examined. But I think it is extremely important—

Mr. Davidson: What do you do, make them up and look at them?

Hon. B. Stephenson: —that if indeed there are problems with the processing of claims, if indeed there are problems with the lateness of arrival of cheques, that it would be useful, particularly to me, if my colleagues honestly want me to try even harder, and I have been trying very hard to improve the service of the board, to let me know the areas specifically in which they are having difficulties so that I may personally examine—

Mr. Lewis: You have been doing that for 10 years.

Hon. B. Stephenson: No. Unfortunately—

Mr. Laughren: You never listen. Why don't you try some other line of work?

Hon. B. Stephenson: —I have yet to receive, outside of one or two specific claims from the Leader of the Opposition or any other member—

Mr. Lewis: Why should we go to you direct?

Mr. Davidson: We wouldn't send them to you because you wouldn't handle them properly.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —a specific name or number on individual claimants.

Mr. Laughren: That is a lie, an outright lie.

An hon. member: That's untrue.

Hon. B. Stephenson: When, indeed, I have received those—

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Do you want a response from the minister or not?

An hon. member: Yes; an honest response.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That's why we're here.

Mr. McClellan: I've sent you three or four cases in the last month.

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I can adjourn the House right now if that's your wish.

Mr. Laughren: You might as well.

Mr. Davidson: You might just as well.

Hon. B. Stephenson: When, indeed, I have received that specific information, I have made a valiant attempt to find out the reasons for the problems and to resolve the difficulties.

Mr. Lewis: But that is not the way we should proceed.

Hon. B. Stephenson: And that is precisely the course that I can follow, because if I know where the major—

Mr. Wildman: You are going to have to have an awful big office.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —problems or road-blocks seem to lie, then it is possible to attack them.

Mr. Deans: What about the people who don't go to members of the Legislature?

Hon. B. Stephenson: We have been attempting to resolve the problems which have been drawn to our attention in an equitable way.

Mr. Warner: You should try protecting the workers instead of the board.

Hon. B. Stephenson: And it is indeed, I think, my responsibility and the responsibility of the board, to ensure that the action which is defined by The Workmen's Compensation Act is carried out responsibly by that board.

Mr. Davidson: Change the Act.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The Act is the responsibility of the Legislature—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister's time has expired.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —and the board functions specifically under that Act and can only function that way.

Mr. Davidson: Change the Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I deem the motion to adjourn to have been carried.

The House adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

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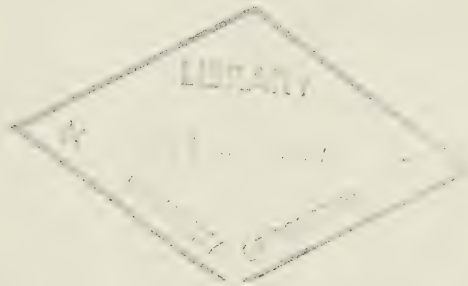
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Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)
Daily Edition



Fourth Session, 30th Parliament

Wednesday, April 6, 1977

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 1977

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, in response to a question which I raised yesterday, the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) made the following statement—I'm quoting from the Instant Hansard:

"Thank you very much. I shall remind myself, Mr. Speaker, to not read the last lines of any of those letters since they are somewhat disconcerting in their content. It would seem [to me] that the use of the English language is something that might be exercised by some of the correspondents."

I'm afraid that statement could create and has created a false impression. Let me quote to you, Mr. Speaker, the last paragraph of the four letters I wrote to Michael Starr on the issue which I had raised with the appropriate minister and I'll let you judge the language.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If it's a point of personal privilege, as the hon. member announced, he may state his point of privilege but not debate it and not build up the information.

Mr. MacDonald: He is not debating.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest—

Mr. Speaker: He may state the point of privilege; and if he's been misquoted and so on—

Mr. Martel: I'm not suggesting—

Mr. Speaker: —it could be construed as a point of personal privilege, but otherwise we don't debate it, except that he can raise the matter at the time as a point of order. But as a point of personal privilege—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: —if none of the privileges of the hon. member has been breached—

Mr. Martel: My privileges have been breached.

Mr. Speaker: Well now, a misinterpretation of what one says, or a difference of opinion as to what one says or reads, is not a point of personal privilege.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I've spoken—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. So he may state his point of privilege, not debate it.

Mr. Martel: I am not attempting to debate it, Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of respect. I simply stated what the minister in her statement indicated, that some of the language was intemperate or whatever. I'm just going to quote, very briefly, the last paragraph of each of the four letters involved in this issue. There are only four sentences, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nixon: I'd certainly like to hear what he said.

Mr. Philip: I would too.

Mr. Martel: The first letter, on July 18, says, and I'm quoting the last sentence: "I think your position is intolerable. I would appreciate your comments." The one on January 24, 1977: "Can you indicate to me whether or not there is really any intention on the part of the Workmen's Compensation Board, through Dr. McCracken or yourself, to meet with the above-named people to discuss the problem of industrial deafness. Thank you."

Mr. Nixon: "Thank you"?

Mr. Martel: On February 17, I wrote the following—and these are addressed to Michael Starr: "Maybe you aren't concerned about deafness in the Sudbury area, but I damn well am, and I want to know when this meeting will take place without further BS." And the BS means Bette Stephenson.

Mr. Lewis: Now there's an abuse of the language.

Mr. Martel: The last letter, Mr. Speaker, on March 3, 1977; the final paragraph: "It is for those reasons that I do not need a

meeting to be briefed, but rather I need a meeting that will clearly propose action on this matter."

Mr. Speaker, obviously the minister's statement left the impression with the press that my language is intemperate, because the headlines say: "MPP's Language Called Filthy." I want to know where the filth is.

Mr. Lewis: Right.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The last part is about the only point that could be construed as a point of privilege.

Mr. Lewis: Yet another Stephenson discrepancy.

Mr. Speaker: We do not build up a case in this case; I repeat again we simply state the point of privilege.

Mr. Nixon: I think we should hear from the minister on that.

Mr. Speaker: There's nothing I can do about any misinterpretation.

Hon. B. Stephenson: On a point of personal privilege, I did not write the headline in the newspaper.

Mr. Deans: No, you made the statement.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Such matters can be brought up, I'm sure, at—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: —order, please—at an appropriate time, some other time; but none of the privileges of the member has been breached.

Statements by the ministry.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON PENSIONS

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the establishment of a royal commission to examine the state of pensions in the province of Ontario.

I also take pleasure in appointing Miss Donna J. Haley, QC, as chairman of this commission. Miss Haley has had a great deal of experience in the field of pensions. Since February, 1974, she has chaired the Pension Commission of Ontario and this February she was reappointed for another three-year term. As well, Miss Haley was a member of the task force on employee benefits under part X of The Employment Standards Act, and has been involved with other task forces

and commissions, both as a member and a participant in preparing briefs. In addition to these and many other duties, Miss Haley has been practising law with the firm of Haley and Martin in Toronto since 1970, and she was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1967.

Along with Miss Haley, Mr. Donald Coxé of Guelph, Mr. Walter Upshall of Toronto and Mr. Alfred Cordell of London will be commissioners in this public inquiry. Brief biographies of each are attached to this statement, together with the terms of reference. A representative of organized labour will be appointed shortly.

There are compelling reasons for initiating a royal commission on pensions. During the past year, the private sector has encountered criticism for its apparent inability to provide adequate retirement pensions; and further, it has become obvious that private sector pension plans find it financially difficult, under the existing institutional and legislative arrangements, to maintain the real value of pensions during periods of inflation. This fact, alongside fully-indexed Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security benefits, and conspicuous fully-indexed benefits of federal and provincial public employee pensions plans, has caused some public dissatisfaction with private sector pensions.

As a consequence, there has been widespread pressure to significantly expand the Canada Pension Plan at the cost of displacing private sector pension plans. Such an expansion of the CPP under its present financial structure would result in a private-to-public shift of capital, increase intervention by government in an individual's consumption/savings decisions and a much larger transfer of income between the present generation and the next.

We are approaching a crossroads with respect to the financing of the Canada Pension Plan. The government of this province welcomes views and suggestions as to the appropriate method for financing the CPP, and what investment policies should be followed with respect to any surplus funds that are created. Similarly, the commission will solicit opinions on the future structure and investment role of public sector employee pension plans.

Before Ontario embarks on any changes to its own pension legislation, or agrees to changes in the Canada Pension Plan, it is absolutely essential to know the economic impact of these changes. Pensions involve social, political and economic issues which are as complex as they are significant. The

importance and the complexities of the issues involved require the establishment of a commission. The in-depth investigation of the commission and its final recommendations will provide the government of this province with much-needed information and will determine the direction in which pension policies should be pursued.

The royal commission will seek and welcome submissions from all interested parties during its investigations. We have heard much from those who are avowed spokesmen for the public but we have heard little from the public themselves. I wish to emphasize that submissions from the public are specifically welcomed. Their participation is necessary if the commission is to evaluate the effectiveness of current pension policies and formulate appropriate changes.

SHIPBUILDING

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have a very brief announcement to share with the House. We have been expressing some interest in employment. The member from the riding involved is there at the moment, and I am pleased to say I have received a report, through my wife who has just christened the motor vessel, Algolake at Collingwood, a maximum sized vessel which can be built for the Seaway and which will be hauling Ontario coal. I understand the christening went well; that the champagne, or whatever it was—the Canadian champagne, I'm sure—broke on the first effort.

Mr. Roy: It was good they sent her and not you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It was also brought to my attention that there will be a press conference in Collingwood this afternoon where an announcement will be made that a similar ship, to be known as Hull 215—

Mr. Nixon: That's a romantic name.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —will be commenced in June and built for Algoma Central Railway; built by Canadian Shipbuilding and Engineering in that community.

Hopefully, it will provide much employment in the area. It is estimated that at the peak of production of this new vessel, there will be 850 people employed at the shipyards in Collingwood, without us having to take an equity position in that great organization.

Mr. Lewis: We didn't say that.

Mr. Moffatt: The Leader of the Opposition wins again.

Mr. Lewis: I thank you for acting so quickly.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The Leader of the Opposition shouldn't thank me, he should thank my wife.

Mr. MacDonald: That would be much more pleasurable.

BASEBALL TICKETS

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I hope you won't rule me out of order; this is a statement, and as such perhaps it should come before orders of the day, but I do have a small problem which will become evident in a few moments.

I understand that the Leader of the Opposition, while contemplating the government's Throne Speech, and offering co-operation and legislative dependability, has also been cited by the press as being upset at not having received baseball tickets.

Mr. Lewis: Upset isn't the word, it is "concerned."

Hon. Mr. Davis: The saddest hallmark of old, tired, bankrupt and intellectually stilted socialism—that of the variety espoused so eloquently by the Leader of the Opposition—is that it institutionalizes envy, preaches total lack of faith in personal private commitments and initiative.

Mr. Lewis: Did you have to have this written for you?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I wanted you to understand—

Mr. Lewis: Have you no spontaneity left?

Mr. Breithaupt: He may strike out as well.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I wanted you to understand, because I don't have many more and I have to be very careful of what I say. I made the private commitment to take the initiative of offering to the Leader of the Opposition two tickets to the ball game, which I am pleased now to transmit. The seats, sir, are slightly to the left of the plate. I could not get those far out in left field which would be more appropriate, but I want to assure him that they are in the blues.

[2:15]

Mr. Speaker: I might allow a brief response to that out-of-order statement.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, if I may, as a matter of simple graciousness and without a text, thank the Premier immensely for his generosity and say that I would sit anywhere in that stadium tomorrow other than the Premier's box, because I would not wish to be the recipient of booing but to boo myself.

Mr. Speaker: I think we should hear briefly from the member for Hamilton West.

Mr. S. Smith: On a point of view, I suppose it is, I would like to say that to be sure that I could participate in the booing, we have already purchased four tickets which we will be using.

Mr. Speaker: The Speaker has been forgotten in all this.

Mr. Lewis: That's free enterprise for you.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member have a point of order?

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I hate to keep this going and belabour this matter, but I am rising again on the Minister of Labour's attempt to respond, and I ask Mr. Speaker to turn, when he has an opportunity, to page 1435-2 of the Instant Hansard for yesterday:

"Hon. B. Stephenson: I do worry about your language, Elie. It's pretty filthy."

And that's quoted in Instant Hansard.

Mr. Lewis: It is time you told the truth.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I stated before that—order, please—on rising on a matter of privilege, one must state the privilege. If it's a matter of debate, a matter of interpretation, that is not a point of privilege. There's no privilege. I say again, if there is a difference of opinion on the interpretation or meaning of someone's words—order, please—it is not a point of privilege.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order if I may.

Mr. Speaker: Your point of order.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, if a member, either in government or opposition, has specifically denied the use of language and words which are explicitly contained in Hansard, surely it is a breach of the privilege

of the House not to have that corrected or drawn to the attention of the House?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. As I understand there was no misquoting; and that's what a member may rise on.

Mr. Lewis: She denied the words.

Mr. Speaker: No. As I understand it, it was a matter—order, please.

Mr. MacDonald: She denied it this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: I heard it very well, I think, and it was a matter of interpretation.

Some hon. members: No, no.

Mr. MacDonald: Read the Instant Hansard.

Mr. Speaker: I haven't heard of any words having been misquoted. I will check the record and just see for myself. As far as I am concerned, as I understand it, there was not a misquoting. That's what a person may rise on.

Mr. Deans: It was a denial.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Treasurer.

AUDIT LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time this afternoon I will be introducing The Audit Act, 1977. This new Act represents, I believe, a significant structural reform to help all of us improve the productivity and accountability of our government institutions.

Since the first auditor for the province was appointed in 1869, it has been seen that this office performs an essential role in making responsible government work. Major revisions in our audit legislation have moved to confirm and clarify its task.

In 1954, The Financial Administration Act was introduced to deal separately with certain functions which were not directly related to the audit process. The last amendment to the current legislation, made in 1971, provided the means to phase out the pre-audit function of the Provincial Auditor. Thus relieved of the task of examining each requisition for funds within approved appropriations before a cheque could be issued, the auditor gained a larger degree of independence and more time to evaluate the internal controls of each ministry.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation I have the privilege to introduce today aims to strength-

en the role and responsibility of the Provincial Auditor and to delete those sections of the current legislation which still pertain to the pre-audit function or are otherwise redundant.

This proposed Act will: First, require the Provincial Auditor to report on the economy and efficiency of expenditures, as well as on the procedures undertaken by the ministries to measure the effectiveness of their programmes; second, broaden the powers and responsibilities of the Provincial Auditor by providing for inspection audits or of requiring a full accounting from recipients of transfer payments, which now make up more than 70 per cent of provincial expenditures; third, expand the powers and responsibilities of the Provincial Auditor regarding the audits of Crown agencies and Crown-controlled corporations; fourth, improve the independence of the Provincial Auditor by having his staffing and financial requirements approved by the Board of Internal Economy and by having his report tabled directly in the Legislature by the Speaker.

In preparing this legislation the government is indebted to the fine work of the independent review committee on the office of the Auditor General of Canada, which was under the chairmanship of the late J. R. M. Wilson, FCA, and to the experience of the Exchequer and Audit Department of the United Kingdom. Also, I would like to thank the members of the standing committee on public accounts for their advice and recommendations.

We propose by this legislation to provide the auditor with a more visible and dynamic mandate. He will now be able to bring to the attention of the Legislature cases where he has observed that value for money, comprising the concepts of economy and efficiency, has not been obtained. We look forward to his reporting on the assessment of our procedures to measure effectiveness, and whether our activities are achieving positive results in relation to our legislative goals and objectives. This could only spur us on to be concrete about what we want to do and careful about how we go about it.

I recognize that certain jurisdictions are hesitant to take this course for fear of undermining the primacy of our representative system, but I feel that this concern is ill-conceived. The immediate danger of modern government is that its size and complexity may diminish our capacity to check bureaucracy and to debate better ways of doing things. A stronger auditor cannot diminish the responsibilities of this Legislature, but this office can help us perform our tasks more

competently, and thereby enhance the good name of this system of government which we cherish.

ALUMINUM WIRING

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce today a one-man inquiry which is being instituted under The Public Inquiries Act to examine the reliability and safety of aluminum wiring for residential use.

Mr. Moffatt: Boy, you're dynamite.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The government recognizes that there are questions in the public mind and a lack of consensus among the standard-setting bodies, manufacturing industries, installers, electrical inspection agencies and consumer organizations as to the reliability and safety of this type of wired electrical circuits.

In order to resolve the conflict of views and to ensure that the public interest is best served, we have appointed Dr. J. Tuzo Wilson to undertake this task.

The terms of reference for this inquiry are quite simple and straightforward:

1. To investigate all matters relating to the safety and reliability of aluminum-wired electrical circuits for residential use, relative to the safety and reliability of copper-wired circuits for residential use.

2. To hold public hearings to enable groups and organizations, individual citizens and representatives of industry to present evidence and other pertinent information on the subject.

3. To make appropriate recommendations, if warranted, on any measures that should be taken by the government of Ontario, by other levels of government, by the general public and by the industry.

I am pleased that as eminent a scientist and scholar as Dr. Wilson has been able to take on this task. As members of the House are probably aware, Dr. Wilson is a former professor of geophysics at the University of Toronto, principal of Erindale College, and since 1974 has been director-general of the Ontario Science Centre. He is a noted author and a fellow of several learned societies, including the Royal Society of Canada and the Royal Society of London, and an associate of the National Academy of Science in the United States.

Dr. Wilson will, of course, be accorded the full assistance and co-operation of all government ministries, boards, agencies and

commissions, and will have the authority to engage counsel, expert technical advisers, investigators and other staff as necessary.

I would emphasize that this inquiry is being undertaken in the public interest. I'm sure that the members of the House, many of whom have spoken on the issue, will look forward to Dr. Wilson's report.

FARM INCOME STABILIZATION COMMISSION

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the appointment of the members of the Farm Income Stabilization Commission of Ontario. The members representing the three major agricultural organizations are:

Mr. Conway: Gordon Hill?

Hon. W. Newman: Cash crop and beef farmer Hilbert Van Ankum of Wroxeter, representing the Christian Farmers' Federation; dairy farmer Ellard Powers of Beachburg, representing the National Farmers' Union; and tobacco and corn farmer Albin Kormas of Vanessa, representing the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

Other commissioners are cash crop farmers: Jules Debrabandere of St. Marys, dairy farmer; dairy farmer George McLaughlin of Beaverton, a former chairman of the Ontario Milk Marketing Board; and dairy and beef farmer Arden Baker of Brockville.

Chairman of the commission is Henry Ediger, who is also chairman of the Crop Insurance Commission.

Mr. Nixon: That is in the riding of Brant.

Mr. Breithaupt: Didn't Gordon Hill make it?

Hon. Mr. Davis: He sure led you guys up the garden path.

Mr. Breithaupt: No, not us at all.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You are right on. Gordon Hill didn't make it; and he won't.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased with these appointments. I believe the experience these people have in various sectors of agriculture will help ensure the success of Ontario's income stabilization programme.

The commissioners will administer The Farm Income Stabilization Act, which was proclaimed April 4. Under the Act, agri-

cultural producers will be able to establish a stabilization plan for individual commodities. Each plan will be financed one-third by participating producers, two-thirds by the government of Ontario. Plans will be established only at the request of producers, and membership is voluntary.

Now that the commission has been appointed, the stabilization programmes can be applied to the 1977 production year.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions. The Leader of the Opposition.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mr. Lewis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the absence of the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells), perhaps I could put a question to the Premier.

Given the clear undesirability of putting another 159 young people onto the unemployment rolls as a result of a decision of the Toronto Board of Education to release or dismiss those teachers, might the Premier speak to the Minister of Education about the particular funding for English as a second language and special education classes for kids with learning disabilities, which it appeared from the board's discussion underlay the need to fire the teachers? It wasn't so much that they weren't needed in the school system as that the programmes which were required didn't have the appropriate funding.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I don't think the issue is really quite that simple. The Minister of Education will be here and I am sure would be quite prepared to reply and give his point of view to the Leader of the Opposition. I expect he will be here shortly.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, if when that happens I could redirect I would appreciate it—I'll consider that a question, of course—if you would allow me at that point.

Mr. Speaker: We could class it as supplementary if we are still in the question period.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

Mr. Lewis: Thank you. I'll ask a question, then, of the Minister of Labour, if I may:

Can the Minister of Labour indicate to us what her plans are, beyond the industrial disputes commissioner appointed into the three collective bargaining disputes with the public health nurses, to deal with the other,

I guess more than 20 areas still outstanding, still unresolved, in what is one of the longest ongoing labour disputes in this province for many years?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am awaiting the report of the industrial inquiry commissioner who has been appointed. I anticipate we shall have that report, probably by the end of this month, and hopefully there will be some directions which will be delineated by the report which we will be able to apply to the other areas.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, if I may; if that report turns out to be as futile as every other initiative has been in the case of the remaining units, might the minister, for the purpose of reaching a resolution of the bargaining process, take into trusteeship, purely for the purpose of collective bargaining, those boards of health which are intractable? Let them do all their other normal functions but resolve it once and for all so that we don't have to retreat to arbitrary legislation?

Mr. S. Smith: Anything but arbitration.

Mr. Lewis: If possible, yes.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, that is an interesting idea, one which has been proposed previously as a matter of fact, and one which I would consider to be an almost last-resort activity. But I shall certainly take it under consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary, the member for Hamilton West.

Mr. S. Smith: Surely before the minister has to go to the extent of taking boards of health into trusteeship, surely she could consider, could she not, giving these nurses the right to arbitration, which is all they ask and all they require?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, as I think I said, I would consider the hon. Leader of the Opposition's suggestion a last resort. I think there are many other steps which one would consider before that one.

Mr. Lewis: None of them is working.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hamilton West with his questions then, please.

BEER SALES AT SPORTS EVENTS

Mr. S. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations:

In the light of the decision last night by Metro council in favour of the sale of beer at Blue Jay baseball games, at least on a six-months' trial basis, might the minister now be prepared to support the resolution that I have tabled today which gives people credit for sufficient maturity to conduct themselves responsibly at the ball game, and permit beer to be sold at professional baseball stadiums in Ontario?

[2:30]

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I've seen neither the resolution from Metro council nor the resolution that the hon. member mentions.

Mr. Nixon: You are like Lord Nelson.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Once I've seen them I'll be discussing them with my cabinet colleagues and it will be a cabinet decision.

Mr. Peterson: What do you say, Sidney?

Mr. Nixon: You have got two blind eyes.

Mr. S. Smith: Does the minister, or for that matter does the Premier, agree with their former candidate, Barbara Greene, who said on the radio this morning that they are "out of touch with young people if you think that they're going to get their first drink at the ball game"; and that in any case, "better they should get it there than in the back alleys of Metropolitan Toronto"? Are you aware of that comment by your former candidate; and how do you feel about that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Is that to me? Are you asking me?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I'm not aware of the comment; and I wouldn't agree with it if I was aware of it.

Mr. Lewis: Is that a matter of confidence?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes; and I have news for you, be very careful.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Scarborough-Ellesmere with a supplementary.

Mr. Warner: To the minister: Could he share with us the explanation that he will be giving to Metro council with respect to a definition of local autonomy and how that affects this decision?

Mr. Deans: Would you fight an election over beer?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I'd be glad to share with the hon. member and any other members of the House whatever explanation is

given to Metro council upon receipt of whatever resolution has been made by that council. I haven't seen it, I can't comment on it; and I don't know how I can share the reasons until that time comes.

Mr. Cassidy: Oh, you are hiding.

Mr. Nixon: Bill knows best, he knows what local autonomy is.

Mr. Samis: Could the minister tell us if, once the election is over, once the baseball season is over, he would reconsider his intractable, immutable decision for the following season?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Beer in the Cornwall arena?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I'm very grateful to the hon. member for his confidence that after the election I'll still be in a position to make that decision; and I assure him that I will do so.

Mr. Warner: As your party's critic perhaps.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The most revealing question of the week.

Mr. S. Smith: The new defeated party—the NDP.

CANADIAN HISTORY

Mr. S. Smith: What is the Premier's response to the charges levelled last night during the TVOntario programme entitled *Issues*, and supported by, among others, Dr. Ian Macdonald, that the inadequate instruction in Canadian history in our schools is a primary cause of the tensions that we are now experiencing in Confederation?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I must confess that I didn't have a free evening last night—

Mr. Nixon: You need a rest, Bill.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —to watch TVOntario; which is a great organization; I'm delighted to know the leader of the third party is watching it. I was working in the public interest.

Mr. Reid: It is nice to keep busy.

Mr. Cassidy: It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. S. Smith: Does the Premier not get it in Fort Lauderdale?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I was hoping the hon. member was going to ask me about beer. I

guess when you're at 13 per cent you seize on any issue, don't you?

Mr. Roy: You weren't that popular about a year ago.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; only the hon. Premier has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Okay, who is on his side? Put your hands up.

Mr. Reid: I am.

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, have you heard any kind of an answer?

Mr. Speaker: No, because of the interjections. The hon. Premier can continue with the answer to the question please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If there were fewer interjections I could get to my answer. I have to confess I did not see the programme so it's very difficult for me to comment on something I didn't see. However, I go back to a period of time when we had debates in this Legislature and discussions on the whole question of Canadian history. I can recall some dialogue between myself and the former leader of the third party on this issue.

It was very constructive. I can recall some constructive criticism emanating from that party as it related to a programme that I rather personally had initiated with respect to the teaching of Canadian history in the school system of this province. I recall very vividly a report being prepared related to this very subject. I acknowledge the great interest of a late member of this House, and one who took a very active interest in this himself, Alex MacLeod, who was partially involved in the development of this concern, this critique, and we discovered some very interesting things. I am just trying to give some background to the leader of the third party.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We discovered there was a certain reluctance—

Mr. S. Smith: It is a serious matter.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is a serious matter and I took it very seriously; I am pointing this out to him so that he will learn something from the history of the situation.

Mr. S. Smith: Then give an intelligent answer. Don't lecture me.

Mr. Lewis: This is intolerable.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am having a little bit of fun.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. Would the hon. Premier continue with the answer to the first question?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, now the Leader of the Opposition is concerned about his other two points.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. The first question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, what we discovered in that discussion with the people in the profession, the history teachers, was their own reluctance in terms of, shall we say Canadian history being colourful, being the kind of thing they wished to emphasize.

As a result of this study, the Ministry of Education then, as it does now, has given great encouragement to the teaching of Canadian history. But I would point out to the leader of the third party that the teaching of Canadian history cannot be confined to the teaching of history in one single province. I want to once again acknowledge the involvement of an organization headed by a gentleman who is very close to the members opposite, Mr. Walter Gordon, in a programme which has been supported by this government in terms of finance, in terms of moral support, in terms of persuasion of the other provincial governments in this country as it relates to the teaching of Canadian history. I think it is important. It is something that has received a priority as far as government is concerned, and while I didn't hear what Dr. Macdonald, or President Macdonald, has said, I have to tell the leader of the third party if he had been here—and I am not being critical of this—some years ago, we had these discussions, and this government is very clearly on the record in terms of the importance of teaching Canadian history. But I say with respect it cannot be confined just to the province of Ontario.

I said something else, now that I am on the subject, some years ago—

Mr. Cassidy: We haven't heard this style of answer for a long time.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Mr. Cassidy: This goes back four or five years.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the hon. Premier continue with the answer?

Mr. Peterson: The style is the man himself.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I made some other observations—I forget to which organization—

that while we can't get uniformity in terms of the teaching of history, that is something that I don't think one can expect; we have made progress in terms of mathematics and science, but it is very difficult to get uniformity in Canadian history among all the provinces of Canada.

I don't know whether this is what Mr. Macdonald was saying in whatever he said last night; I have no idea. He is only 100 yards away and I can go and ask him. But I would say to the leader of the third party that there are many reasons for the present difficulties we face, and I do not minimize the importance of history. It is taught in schools right across this country, as being a very important priority. But I just can't tell him that we have any capacity here to determine the history courses, the texts and so on in all the various provinces of this country.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, Mr. Speaker, could the Premier just answer two specific points; and they are: Can he assure us that he will take issue with the Minister of Education and guarantee that the new core curriculum, which includes Canadian studies, be implemented for those students presently in high school rather than simply for those who may be entering this fall, so at least they will know Canadian history; and can he guarantee us that some steps will be taken so that every public school child, every elementary school child in Ontario, shall have some reasonable understanding of the basic history of this country, especially at this time of crisis?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: It is in public schools, it is already in public schools; it is already there.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Talk to your former leader.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Where were you educated?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I assume this is the point the leader of the third party made to that massive audience in Oakville last night on matters of education. I would say to him—and I don't often get provoked—the students in our school system are learning Canadian history. I happen to have five in the system. I don't know how many the member has.

Mr. S. Smith: Two, and they haven't learned a thing about Canadian history.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, my five are learning something about Canadian history and they

are damned proud of it. What I can't say to the leader of the third party is that every student in Canada is going to learn the same history. We don't have that capacity. It may be one of the problems, but to suggest to the public of this province that young people in our elementary and secondary school system aren't learning Canadian history and have no appreciation of it, is just pure, utter nonsense and he should know better.

Mr. Lewis: One of my children knows a great deal about Upper Canada.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been answered. I'll allow the member for Kitchener-Wilmot a final supplementary on this question.

Mr. Sweeney: Is the Premier not aware of the fact that it was on his own initiative in 1968, as the then Minister of Education, that it was no longer required that history be a compulsory subject in the secondary schools of this province?

An hon. member: Right.

Mr. Sweeney: And has not been since that time?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should know a little more about the educational system in this province than some of his colleagues.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He knows full well Canadian history is compulsory. It is compulsory in the elementary grades and has been since day one.

This is where the young people get an appreciation and understanding. If he didn't teach it in his system then it was his negligence, but it was being taught in every other system in this province.

Mr. Conway: That is not the question.

Mr. Sweeney: The question has not been answered.

Mr. S. Smith: You are on weak ground.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I announced that was a final supplementary. I might point out that we have been close to 15 minutes on the—

Mr. Breithaupt: Who are you pointing it out to?

Mr. Speaker: Just to the House.

Mr. Breithaupt: I don't think we can have both leaders' questions answered at such length.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There has been a request that the question period change its format a certain amount to give more people a chance to ask questions and get answers. If that is going to be abused, if you spoil it; it's your question period and I can't help that.

Now then we will go back, as we promised. The Leader of the Opposition asked permission, and was granted it, to complete his first question—I guess we could call it that. The Minister of Education being here, he may now do that.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mr. Lewis: Since it becomes clear from the previous exchange that teachers are badly needed in this system, may I ask the Minister of Education is there any way that he can move urgently in the area of grants for English as a second language, and special education classes for the learning disabled, in order to allow the maintenance on staff of 159 teachers in the Toronto board, whose dismissal seems not so much to be a matter of overhiring as a matter of inadequate funds to provide the programmes so urgently needed?

Mr. S. Smith: I think you are trying to get Cressy off the hook.

Mr. Lewis: Cressy? He is no longer there.

Mr. S. Smith: Yes, but he did the overhiring.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, there is no question that there is a problem, budget-wise, insofar as the Toronto board is concerned. Declining enrolment is also part of the problem, as is the Metro staffing formula, a negotiated formula.

All of these together mean that the Toronto board, as I understand it, is not able to keep a group of teachers they hired and whom they didn't need last year. I think no one disputes that fact. It was an error, and errors are made, I guess we have to realize that.

Certain accommodations were made for those teachers over the year. But now the issue of permanent jobs for them is the question and it isn't possible for the Toronto board, under those various formulas I just stated, to offer permanent employment.

It bothers me—and I did some checking this morning—that some of the reductions the Toronto board has made in its number

of teachers because of declining enrolment involves cutting teachers in the special education and English as a second-language areas. I can't tell you exactly why they have chosen to do that, Mr. Speaker, at first glance it doesn't please me that they have done that.

That seems a rather strange area to cut. As the hon. member knows, we have suggested there will be some new initiatives in the English as a second-language area coming forward very shortly.

All I can tell the member at the present time is that I intend to investigate this matter just a little further to find out a little more about the special education and English as second-language areas that are represented here; but I think we also have to realize it is a case of a Metro staffing formula and a surplus of teachers who were hired because of an error a year ago.

[2:45]

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary then, quickly: Since the minister, as others, finds it unhappy that we always seem to have to cut back in the most vulnerable areas of the school system, around kids who are most vulnerable, and since he intends to introduce measures, financial included, to provide greater support in precisely those areas, can he ask the Toronto board to declare a moratorium on the dismissal of those teachers so that they can be absorbed, contingent on the minister's programmes?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I can't give the member that assurance until I find out exactly how this relates to the 159. I understand that 44 special education positions are being somehow phased out. I'd like to find out why, and how that relates to this particular problem. Certainly it doesn't sound at first hearing as if it's a very reasonable way to do it, but I've got to investigate it a little more before I can find out exactly why this is the situation.

I think my friend has to remember that the decision to do this has been made by a group of people who are elected the same as we are, and represent the citizens of Toronto. If we believe all we say about local municipal bodies, they are closer to those people whom they represent than even we are.

Mr. Lewis: Like Essex county.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is this a supplementary?

Mr. Warner: To the Minister of Education: Am I to understand from the minister's statement about English as a second language that he will take the responsibility of direct funding for English as a second-language programme through his new legislation?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Oh no, Mr. Speaker. I think if my friend remembers the Speech from the Throne, it said there would be some new initiatives in the area of English as a second language linked with our multi-cultural programme and our heritage language programme.

Mr. Warner: And will not include—

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, this is the English.

Interjection.

Mr. Lewis: What's the Treasurer muttering about? Let the Minister of Education answer the question.

Mr. Conway: Darcy, you are not boss yet.

Mr. Ruston: He's trying hard, though.

Mr. Grande: Could the minister give us some ideas in terms of what these new directions are that he is talking about, as a result of the Throne Speech, in terms of ESL and in terms of—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I'm sure the hon. member heard the hon. minister state these new initiatives will be announced shortly, and we will await that time.

HOUSING PROGRAMME

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, a question for the—Point of order, Mr. Speaker: Is he still to be referred to as the Minister of Housing?

Mr. Speaker: I don't understand the question. Would the hon. member please ask the question, if he has one, of the ministry?

Mr. Breaugh: To the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie, I think the Minister of Housing: Would he be a little more specific in providing the House with the inventory or a list of properties that he intends to make available, with actual prices that he will charge to builders or developers, in this new dismantling of the HOME programme? And when he does that, does he intend to address himself to that small problem in the assisted-home-ownership programme of no income ceiling, so that the programme itself that he has opted into might be abused, if you like, by those who may not need that?

financial assistance? Does the minister intend in any way to address himself to that problem?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I regret that the hon. member has not taken the time to read the programme or he would know that there is, in fact, an income ceiling and that the grant structure that has been set up in the combination of the two programmes provides for a declining grant, to the point where there is no grant when the income ceilings are there—which has been a position espoused by the member's predecessor, a very commendable predecessor; the weakness of the opposition is noticeable now. It's there; read it.

Mr. Cassidy: That's a gratuitous comment.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: But true.

Mr. Breaugh: Supplementary: I certainly appreciate the quality of the response. I wonder whether he does intend to present to the House the list of the properties that will be made available and the actual prices that would be charged. Does he intend to give us any inkling as to what he intends to do with things like North Pickering and Cayuga sites?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, certainly the prices of those lands will be public knowledge; we have said so, that they will be made available on the public market. I've indicated I can't give the member a specific price until such times as appraisals of the lands have been completed. We have said in the statements, and I repeat here, that it was intended they would be sold and will be sold at the low end of the market, the lowest of three appraisals.

I cannot comment on the Cayuga lands because it is not my area of responsibility. As far as North Pickering is concerned, we are carrying on with the final acquisition of that land. As the member knows, there is now some controversy over that, and at the same time we are proceeding with the planning for the area in conjunction with the regional municipality of Durham, to whom we have a commitment of not proceeding until we can find an accommodation with the region.

Mr. Breaugh: Could I have another supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We've had two questions. The one had to do with income ceilings and the other had to do with the price of lots; one's not supplementary to the other. I allowed them because they're in

the same general field, but is this a supplementary to that question? It is? Then I'll allow a final supplementary.

Mr. Breaugh: Could the minister provide us with the rationale for proceeding with North Pickering and other sites under the Ministry of Housing, when he intends to buy it with public funds and then turn it back to private enterprise? Why is he continuing to do that?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The hon. member should be well aware that the lands I'm referring to under the AHOP-HOME programme are lands that were purchased and were being held by the Ontario Housing Corporation.

Mr. Lewis: That's right.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The lands at the North Pickering site are lands that were not purchased by the Ontario Housing Corporation but are now in the hands of the North Pickering Development Corporation—

Mr. Lewis: They are both public lands.

Mr. Cassidy: They are public lands.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —and they are proceeding in their planning as a developer would and are dealing with the regional municipality. It is not in my area of responsibility.

Mr. Breaugh: An excellent record of performance.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The hon. member will have to read the material and understand what is happening in those areas.

ABORTIONS

Mr. Sweeney: A question to the Minister of Health: What will be the response of his government to the initiative by the federal Minister of Health that he intends to press the provincial governments to set up regional abortion clinics to replace the present practice in provincial hospitals?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I have had no such indication from my federal counterpart, Mr. Lalonde. I understand the federal Minister of Justice, Mr. Basford, has indicated he intends to tour the provinces to meet with officials. There has been no prior indication of what he specifically intends to say to us. When the report, known as the Badgley report, was received by my office, I established a review committee made up of representatives of the OMA and the OHA under

Dr. Caudwell of my ministry and I should have their report within a few months.

Mr. Sweeney: Supplementary: What would be the criteria of this ministry to determine whether or not regional abortion clinics might be set up?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: We are not considering setting up regional abortion clinics. I don't know where it comes from. Maybe that's an idea being espoused by the hon. member, but it is not being espoused by me. The committee to which I referred, under Dr. Caudwell, is examining the report as it pertains to the application of the aspects of the federal Criminal Code that relate to therapeutic abortions—how they're applied in this province and how fairly they're applied.

Ms. Gigantes: Supplementary: I'm wondering if the Minister of Health has considered adding a woman to his review committee?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: There are two women members of the committee.

Mr. Nixon: Another one will make three.

Mr. Ruston: Take one off; they only want one.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

DRIVERS' MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Hon. Mr. Snow: I would like to reply to two questions asked on Monday, April 4, by the hon. member for Etobicoke.

Officials of my ministry did meet with members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters on March 17 and March 31, 1977. The question of confidentiality of medical records was raised at those meetings. The first concern raised was the right of the drivers to refuse to supply an employer with a copy of the medical report. It was, of course, possible to state emphatically that the employer had no entitlement to such reports.

On the more general question of confidentiality of medical records in our files, they were advised that complete confidentiality is maintained as a matter of firm ministry policy. This is not a new policy. The ministry's medical advisory committee has functioned for some 30 years and confidentiality of medical records has been maintained during that period and continues under the new licensing programme.

Section 143 of The Highway Traffic Act makes the original report of a medical practitioner, required under this section, privileged for the information of the registrar only and not open to public inspection. While this section does not ensure confidentiality of the types of reports filed by drivers for licensing purposes, the same policy is supplied to them without exception.

Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would also like to reply to a question asked Monday by the hon. member for Durham East also in connection with the classified drivers' licence system.

On the matter of the diabetics being excluded from operation of heavy trucks or passenger transport, this follows the recommendation of the Canadian Medical Association and is dealt with on pages 27 and 28 of their publication, *A Guide for Physicians in Determining Fitness to Drive a Motor Vehicle*:

"A problem of diabetics is the risk created by the element of instability that is always present and which is subject to so many variables. Insulin reaction can be caused by irregular or skipped meals, degrees of exertion, other illnesses such as flu, nausea, et cetera, which would, at times, prevent the diabetic from adhering to the usual diabetic diet, as well as errors of the patient in insulin dosage. An insulin reaction is not always accompanied by a warning and so mental confusion, automatic behaviour without memory or ability to function normally, or complete loss of consciousness may occur. Should any of these occur while driving larger commercial vehicles, or passenger-carrying vehicles, the results are potentially that much more hazardous."

Mr. Philip: I wonder why the minister cannot simply accept a statement by a qualified physician that the particular driver lives up to the criteria set by the ministry, rather than require the filing of all this detailed documentation that can fall into the wrong hands.

An hon. member: Like insurance companies.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe—

Hon. Mr. Davis: You people are experts, yes.

Hon. Mr. Snow: —this information is at all likely to fall into the wrong hands.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Like you leave it on the desk and say it is there.

Hon. Mr. Snow: As I mentioned—and if the Premier wouldn't interrupt me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. Snow: As I stated, Mr. Speaker, it is a strict ministry policy that all these medical records are kept confidential.

Mr. Mancini: It is the moustache.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Although The Highway Traffic Act of which I quoted a section requires the strict confidentiality of these records provided under section 143, the same section does not apply to the licensing records but, as I stated, as a ministry policy we follow the same degree of confidentiality. When reviewing future amendments, if it is the feeling of the House that it should be included, I'm going to discuss with my staff when we are bringing forward amendments to the Act that we include that degree of confidentiality right in the Act. I'm prepared to say right now that I will do that.

I'm not prepared to accept a simple statement from a doctor that a person meets our standards because, of course, we have a medical review committee; we have an appeal procedure, if it's necessary for the medical review committee to have the form forwarded to it. This is the policy in any other similar circumstance where a medical is required, that the report of the doctor is forwarded to the receiving authority so that if there is any doubt it can be reviewed by a medical review committee and not by one individual. I think this supplies a considerable degree of protection for the driver whose privileges you are concerned about protecting.

[3:00]

Mr. Moffatt: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I appreciate the minister's comments in regard to this question which was asked the other day, but what I would like to ask him now is, is there no recognition—and I have read the regulations—for the degrees of insulin requirements by various individuals, given that a great many people now qualify as commercial vehicle drivers holding licences? Those people will be precluded from holding such licence after February 1, 1978, and I think we are going to get into great difficulty there. Would the minister investigate that as well?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Well, yes, Mr. Speaker, I will send the hon. member a copy of this Canadian Medical Association booklet which may help him.

In my previous answer I mentioned the medical review committee; that's why we have that committee. I think, not being one that knowledgeable about medicine, or not having had any direct personal experience with people who have to take insulin, there are obviously different degrees of capability or seriousness of the situation. I think anyone whose driving privilege is affected by these new requirements would certainly be able to ask for a review of his or her particular situation by the medical review committee and forward the necessary doctors' reports to support his particular degree of need so that it could be properly assessed. That's why we have the medical review committee, so that these can be assessed on an individual basis independently, and not just take the word of one doctor's yes or no.

Mr. Moffatt: Check with Bobby Clarke.

Mr. Cassidy: In view of the discrimination against people handicapped in this case, why is it that the diabetics are deemed not to be a risk if they drive cars; but to be a risk if they drive trucks?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I don't believe I ever said that they are considered not to be a risk if they are driving cars either. There is a degree of risk there.

I think I said in my first answer that with a person who could be subject to becoming incapable of driving because of this handicap, the degree of danger is much more serious if he or she is driving a bus down the highway with 50 or 60 passengers in it or driving a large semi-trailer than it is if he is driving his automobile. Of course, there is no doubt that if his degree of illness, shall we say, is serious enough, the medical review committee would not allow him to drive a car either.

BILINGUAL COURT SERVICES

Mr. Cassidy: A question to the Attorney General, Mr. Speaker: In view of the several announcements he has made about bilingual court facilities in Ottawa, can he now give a date when bilingual court facilities will begin in the Ottawa area?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Yes, Mr. Speaker. My best estimate at the present time is at the end of June.

WIRETAPPING CHARGE

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Attorney General as well: Is the Attorney General aware of a charge under section 178 of The Criminal Code, the wiretapping section, against the Niagara Falls telephone repairman who apparently found a listening device in the course of changing telephones and that this individual was in fact charged and, as I understand, acquitted?

Would the Attorney General express to the House or maybe give a directive to his officers about the propriety of an individual in the course of his work like this being charged under section 178 of The Criminal Code?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the particular case but I will be happy to learn what I can and report back to the House.

Mr. Roy: I wonder if the Attorney General as well might look at the fact that apparently section 178 of the Code covers the case where one in the course of his work—as is stated in the Code and I read just very briefly—“in the course of operation of a telephone or telegraph, discloses that there is a listening device.” That is why, in fact, the individual in Niagara Falls, was charged.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: As I indicated I will look into all the circumstances of this particular case and report back to the hon. member and to the House.

TOWNSEND TOWNSITE

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: On Friday last the hon. member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller) asked a question of the Premier as follows:

“Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Townsend site is in my riding and in view of the fact that agriculture requires many years of planning in advance, I wonder if the initial plans for the Townsend town site have been finalized, and when they may be made available?”

The planning work connected with the preparation of the Townsend community plan has, for all intents and purposes, been concluded. The planners are now preparing the final report for printing, and I understand it will be available in approximately six weeks. The results, of course, will be presented to the council of the regional municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk. In conjunction with this, however, the planning proposals

will be subjected to review and evaluation by the responsible municipal and other public agencies, the citizens in the region and all other interested parties. At the conclusion of that review the province will meet with the region to determine the acceptability of the plan or the need for revising it.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary: I wonder if the minister can indicate whether his ministry has made a decision to go ahead with the servicing of at least a part of the Townsend city site and the building of homes within the next 15 months? Secondly, is the commitment made to bring a water service either fully into the Townsend site or at least as far as Jarvis?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: No. We have not made a firm decision to bring that servicing all the way up. As the hon. member is well aware, I'm sure, there has been some debate going on in the regional council about that. We had indicated to the council at a meeting held here in Toronto that we would like to see development take place and would like to see approximately 240 to 250 houses on the site by 1980. That decision, though, has not been finalized. That, of course, would require bringing the services, as he suggested, initially up to the site.

We have not made any commitment as far as the servicing of the area into Jarvis or Hagersville is concerned. There is still some negotiation going on between Stelco and the region and the Ministry of the Environment concerning the water supply for the Stelco steel works there—so, it's all to be tied together. No final decisions have been made yet.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary: I wonder if the minister could tell us what the estimated cost would be to service the proposed 250 lots in the proposed city of Townsend? We've heard \$40 million.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I think the figure of \$40 million is, probably, reasonably accurate—I would refer to my absent colleague for more exact figures—if you went in and put the total servicing in at one time. We have been looking at the possibility of starting off and phasing the servicing, so that you would not start off with an initial cost of \$40 million, but substantially less than that. This would supply the water to those two communities that really need that water supply—Jarvis and Hagersville—as well as getting it to the Townsend site, and possibly using a lagoon system in the early part of the stage for sewer servicing.

LAND SPECULATION TAX EXEMPTION

Mr. Makarchuk: Question to the Minister of Revenue: In view of the fact that the Provincial Auditor has concluded that, on the basis of her ministry's decision alone, Ronto Development Company owes the province of Ontario something like \$493,158—that's without interest—does the minister intend to collect this money from the company now?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I have not been so informed by the auditor.

Mr. Makarchuk: Supplementary: Will the minister, first, try to find out from the auditor that the computation has been made and, second, report back to the House as to what she intends to do about the matter?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I will take the matter under advisement.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary: Can the minister at the same time undertake the review to see what the amount would be if in fact the full profit of Ronto were subject to the land speculation tax? It appears to the members of the standing committee that it could be as much as \$2 million that has been forgone as a result of the order in council exempting Ronto.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: My ministry has already been represented and has expressed its opinion before the public accounts committee.

COURT FACILITIES

Mr. Stong: Does the Attorney General propose the establishing of county court facilities in Willowdale and the building of a provincial court complex at Woodbine and Steeles? If so, does he intend to continue with the court complex at Newmarket? Again, if so, when does he intend to commence the project at Newmarket?

Mr. Hodgson: That was announced last week.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I know of no proposed county court facilities in Willowdale. When the courthouse is built in the north end of the county, it would be hoped there would be county court and indeed Supreme Court facilities there. I believe the Minister of Government Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) made an announcement last week with respect to the commencement date. I'm afraid I

can't tell the member off the top of my head what it is at the moment.

LINCOLN PLACE NURSING HOME

Mr. Grande: My question is to the Minister of Health. Is he concerned that senior citizens are getting ripped off in nursing homes, in particular at the Lincoln Place Nursing Home? Is he aware that these senior citizens are being charged for services which they do not receive? Is he also aware that the ripoff has been going on since January 1975 and that Mr. Graham, chief of the nursing home inspection service, has known about it since May 1976 and to this date has done nothing about it?

Will the minister order an investigation or a review of the nursing home regarding pricing of services, whether the prices charged are legal and whether those residents who have been charged for services not rendered will be reimbursed?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, while I am on my feet, may I correct my answer to the member for Carleton East earlier? I said two of the members of the review committee were members of the female sex. I was incorrect. It's three out of the four nominated by the OHA and the OMA.

Mr. Lewis: What was that? Members of the female sex?

Mr. Speaker: Now the answer to this question.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I believe the name of the nursing home in question is Lincoln Place. I haven't had any correspondence from the member. Fortunately, I do read the newspapers and members of my staff have talked with Mr. Corder, who is the head of our inspection branch. That matter is being investigated. As soon as I have a report on the matter, I will get back to the member.

TUBE TURNS STRIKE

Mr. Spence: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. Could the minister inform me if any progress has been made in settling the strike at Tube Turns of Canada Limited in Ridgetown? As has been brought to my attention, there is big concern.

Hon. B. Stephenson: To my knowledge, that strike is not as yet settled but the members of the mediation conciliation branch are in touch with both parties. If there is anything

of event to report to members, I shall certainly report to the House.

BENEFITS RATES

Ms. Sandeman: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. In view of the fact that the Ministry of Community and Social Services has underspent its budget by some \$31 million this year, could the minister explain why he is finding it so hard to give an immediate increase to recipients of family benefits and general welfare payments?

Mr. Conway: And don't shout; just settle right down. Your one pair of shoes won't last.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I have no intention of shouting. I am very calm.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. minister answer this particular question and just ignore the interjections, please?

[3:15]

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sure the hon. member realizes, for one thing, that increases in the level of support for family benefits and the other income-support programmes are not a one-shot affair. While it's under consideration, the matter has to take into consideration resources on a longer-term basis than just at this particular moment in time. I would point out, just to put it in perspective, that under the family benefits alone we pay out almost \$30 million per month in support under that one programme, not taking into consideration general welfare assistance and the other income-support programmes.

So although the \$30 million that the member referred to—and I can't at this point confirm whether that's an accurate figure or not, but assuming that it is—seems like a very substantial amount of money, taken in the total picture of what the cost is in terms of income support programmes it is not such a large amount. It would be substantially less than one month's commitment, and if one looks at the long term, then I think one has to look at it more carefully before jumping to the conclusion that it's a good way to get rid of some excess money you have in the budget at the moment.

Ms. Sandeman: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that for family benefits recipients it is often the short term that is the most important to them, and that in the short term of last year the underspending could have meant an average increase of 9.7 per cent to

family benefits and general welfare recipients had it been put to those budgets?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I can't, again, confirm the member's figures or her calculations. I'd be glad to take a look at them.

Mr. Cassidy: Oh, for God's sake.

Hon. Mr. Norton: But I might add that certainly I'm aware of the importance of the short term and the long term and I think it would be totally irresponsible of us to jump to the conclusion that an immediate and perhaps very popular short-term infusion of funds might be very popular at the moment and create a great public response. I want to find a more reasonable and longer-term proposal that is going to be of more substance to the people in the province of Ontario who are receiving income supplements.

Mr. Cassidy: You are just a trendy version of James Taylor.

Mr. Warner: Did James Taylor leave you all his old speeches?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. B. Newman: Would the minister consider phasing out any family benefits received by a recipient in case of the death of one of the members included in the family benefits team, rather than reducing it automatically on the death of the individual—phasing it out over a period of time?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would certainly be prepared to take a look at that. If the member could give me details of a particular case, I'd be quite prepared to look into it at the present time.

Mr. Warner: At the same time.

Mr. McClellan: Why don't you do something?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Norton: There is a phasing-out programme under other circumstances. I'm not aware of the details in the case of death, but I'd be quite prepared to have a look at it.

FUEL RATES FOR FARMERS

Mr. Mancini: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Is the minister going to take action so that the farmers of Essex county and Ontario will no longer have to pay more for gasoline while they're

buying in bulk than they would when they buy at the retail level?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will check back through Hansard, I did cover that aspect of it. As far as the—

Mr. Conway: Have you done anything?

Mr. Nixon: It is still more expensive in bulk.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. minister ignore the interjections and answer the first question.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest the hon. member should talk to his federal counterpart who put the five-cent tax on diesel fuel for farmers, for number one.

Mr. Nixon: What about your tax?

Mr. Breithaupt: What about your sales tax?

Hon. W. Newman: As far as tax is concerned in the province of Ontario, we don't tax the agricultural community for gasoline or diesel fuel.

Mr. Sargent: What about your 19-cent tax?

An hon. member: They're exempt.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Mancini: Supplementary: In view of the fact the farmers are now paying an average of three cents more per gallon while buying in bulk, does the Minister of Agriculture and Food have any plans for writing or getting information as to why these companies are allowed to do this? And does he also plan to take any steps, such as possibly writing himself to these companies to see if he can persuade them to lower their prices, in view of the fact that the farmers are already under severe hardships?

Mr. MacDonald: He is in favour of higher prices. Be frank, you are in favour of higher prices.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I have already had correspondence with the Minister of Energy (Mr. Taylor) and had quite a lengthy reply back from him on the matter; it's a matter of delivery by tank truck load and other matters. I think the member should ask the Minister of Energy (Mr. Taylor) for details on it, but certainly I will be glad to give the member the facts that I have if he wants them.

Mr. Warner: I heard he can't read, Bill.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Attorney General has the answer to a question asked previously.

TORONTO DOWNTOWN PLAN

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, on Monday of this week, April 4, the hon. leader of the Liberal Party asked a question concerning the current Ontario Municipal Board hearings on the Toronto central core bylaw. At that time I agreed to provide further information with respect to senior citizens' projects. It is my information that there are four senior citizens' projects involved, which are being dealt with separately and apart from the core bylaw.

First, restricted area amendment bylaw 590-76 and 591-76 involves a senior citizens' apartment building on the north side of Queen Street between Beverley and John Streets. No objections were filed to this project and it was approved on March 18 and the board's order was issued on that date.

Second, restricted area amendment bylaw 616-76 and 616-77 involves a senior citizens' apartment building on the southeast corner of Sherbourne Street and Dundas Street east. On March 18 the OMB was advised by the city legal department that formal application for approval is not now being made.

Third, restricted area amendment bylaw 620-76 and 622-76 involves a senior citizens' building at numbers 12 to 14 Spadina Road. Objections have been received and a hearing is scheduled for May 19.

Fourth, restricted area amendment bylaw 566-76 and 567-76 involves a senior citizens' apartment building on the south side of College Street, west of Spadina, east of Augusta Avenue. Objections have been received and the date for a hearing has been set for July 25.

The reasons that the senior citizens' restricted-area amendment bylaws were capable of being separated from the core bylaw hearing is that these amending bylaws have, in fact, been passed by the city council. The matters that cannot be severed from the main core bylaw hearing are those applications to the council for amendments to restricted-area bylaws where the council has refused to pass the amendments.

As I understand the process, the hearing of the core bylaw involves a three-stage process: first of all, the consideration of the official plan as a whole; secondly, the consideration then of the particular height bylaw, and then

the third stage of the process is the amendments to the bylaw, or I should say the exemptions that are requested to the bylaw. Because it has to be carried on in this three-stage process it is not possible, I understand, to separate out any of the other projects.

I would like to underline the concern of myself and my colleagues for the rate of unemployment in the province, and particularly the concerns of the construction industry. Following my meeting last week with the chairman, I wrote him a letter as follows:

"There has been much recent concern over the rising rate of unemployment and in particular the increase in unemployment in the construction industry. Representatives of the construction industry have indicated that part of the problem stems from a delay in applications for new construction projects which must be approved by the OMB.

"I believe we should do everything possible to ensure the construction projects are not being delayed by our inability to process the OMB applications within a reasonable time. It is my view that we should give priority to OMB applications which involve new construction projects. I would appreciate your comments on my suggestion along with any difficulties you anticipate would be encountered in scheduling such applications in priority to the other work of the OMB."

In conclusion, I therefore invite any members of the construction industry, those involved in the industry, to advise us of any particular specific projects where they believe it would be in the public interest to expedite hearings before the OMB, and we would certainly lend our good offices to the expedition of these hearings. I understand further that the Treasurer of the province has had a similar conversation recently with the chairman to the same effect.

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest to the hon. Attorney General that an answer that length really should have been given in statements by the ministry.

Hon. Mr. Snow: But it was an important question.

WCB REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

Mr. Bounsall: A question of the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker: Is the minister really aware that the length of vocational retraining allowed by the Workmen's Compensation Board, and therefore the type of course or programme that could be approved for an injured workman, is tied directly, and

therefore limited, to his degree of residual disability or pension rating, irrespective of what course has been determined by Manpower, for example, through testing, as being the most appropriate course for that person, taking into account his interest, ability, intelligence and permanent productive prospects for the future?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I shall answer this extremely carefully because although I have been aware for a very long time of the relative weakness of the male sector of our species I really didn't know—

Mr. Peterson: Compared to who?

Hon. B. Stephenson: —until yesterday just how hypersensitive and how tremendously fragile were the psyches of the official opposition. Therefore, I shall be very sure in future that no words of mine will ever disturb their psyches unduly.

Mr. Breithaupt: Again.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, I am aware of the kinds of limitations which are placed upon the rehabilitation programme. I am aware that these limitations are under review at the moment and that indeed there is to be a move to the direction of expansion of what has been a limitation in the past.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The oral question period has expired.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Breagh: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker, earlier today the Minister of Housing inferred that the Assisted Home Ownership Programme has an income ceiling. May I just simply quote from page 8 of the CMHC information booklet on AHOP, one line? "There is no income limit."

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, on the point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think if anything, it was a point of order which was raised as soon as he could. If there is a brief reply I'll allow it.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has suggested that my answer to his original question was not correct.

Mr. Lewis: It wasn't.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The hon. member is referring to the CMHC-AHOP programme

which quite properly does not have income limitations. If the hon. member will look at the new programme of the combining of AHOP and HOME he will find that there are built-in limitations of income, and he knows that is correct.

Mr. Speaker: Presenting reports.

Motions.

AUDIT ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of Bill 24, The Audit Act, 1977.

Motion agreed to.

MEDICAL DATA BANK ACT

Mr. B. Newman moved first reading of Bill 25, The Medical Data Bank Act, 1977.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to establish a medical data bank in which would be stored in computerized form the medical histories of persons in Ontario who wish to participate in such a bank. The proposed bank would be operated and maintained by the provincial Ministry of Health and every public hospital would have an outlet for the medical histories of persons using that hospital.

Written consent of a person concerned would be required before the record is stored in the bank and the medical history could not be removed without the written consent of his or her legally qualified medical practitioner. Social insurance numbers would be used for identification when using the medical data bank. Participation in the medical data bank would be on a volunteer basis only.

[3:30]

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, when I concluded last night I possibly made an inappropriate remark with regard to one of my

colleagues, and to that end I would like to say that I am sorry.

Mr. Lewis: Your language was positively filthy.

Mr. Cunningham: I don't want to engage in a debate with the hon. Leader of the Opposition because he's been here a lot longer than I have, and he may stay a lot longer than I will.

Mr. Lewis: I doubt it.

Mr. Roy: I wouldn't count on that.

Mr. Cunningham: I would only say to him at this time that my language was not filthy. There are some in this House whose language is filthy, he is not one of them, of course.

Many hon. members have read of the memo—I don't think any of us has seen the memo from the Ministry of Government Services. I see the minister is in his seat at this time; if he'd like to send us the memo advising the ministry to bill firms now and to bill at a higher rate, I'd like to see the contents of it myself. I certainly would appreciate it. I know the Hamilton District Chamber of Commerce would like to receive it as well; they were interested in the contents of it.

I must say I was somewhat disappointed to read, in the account published in the Toronto Globe and Mail, that it was requested by a senior official in the Ministry of Government Services that his associates contact their suppliers with a view to getting their bills in and getting them in at the highest possible rate before the end of the fiscal year in order that the ministry could maintain or increase its budget in the coming year.

Hon. J. R. Smith: Only for work in that fiscal year.

Mr. Cunningham: It's hardly a standard business practice in the private sector, but I think it is typical of the stupidity that occurs in that particularly ministry. I can only say that it indicates quite clearly to me the need for the practices of zero-base budgeting. I think they should be considered very seriously as soon as possible. Ministries unable to meet their programme demands, and that fall below budget levels, should be hard-pressed, in my view, to justify budget increases in subsequent years. On the other hand ministries that over-spend their budgets should require serious analysis.

I was pleased to see today that we're going to be giving consideration to The Audit Act. I think we should give some serious

consideration to increasing the staff of our Provincial Auditor, Mr. Scott. I believe he and his staff have served the Legislature and the taxpayers very well, and especially indicating recently the abuse in the land speculation tax system and the problems in OHIP and a tremendous waste of millions at Minaki Lodge.

The government currently employs more than 14,000 contract employees. While I would say that some contracting can be justified, the process is often open to gross abuse in the form of patronage. The Civil Service Commission must be directed, I believe, to recommend guidelines which have economy and staff reductions as their first principles.

Serious consideration should be given to reorganizing and streamlining the cabinet. I was told not long ago that the cabinet in the British House has, I think, 25 persons operating 25 ministries. It's inconceivable to me that in a province with eight million people, with various other levels of government sharing responsibilities, we should have the number of people we do have in the cabinet at the current time.

I would suggest that we could possibly give consideration to combining the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of Education because the two are so closely related. The tiny policy of the Ministry of Energy, I believe, should be combined with the Ministry of the Environment; they are directly related and, as things become more difficult in future as far as conservation of energy and the importance of our environment are concerned, I think a combination of them would serve us all very well. Correctional Services, at the same time, might well be combined with the Solicitor General's office, and Revenue could well be moved into the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs.

I believe, as I said earlier in my speech, that if all the ministries of this government served the people of northern Ontario effectively, there would be no need for a Ministry of Northern Affairs. In my view, there is no need for ministers without portfolio who, I respectfully submit, cost the taxpayers of Ontario at least \$160,000 a year in current operating figures, and probably a considerable amount more thereafter, in the form of pensions, et cetera. In these times of restraint, the fact that we have such high-priced help, which I don't particularly think is required, really is a very serious condemnation of our sense of revenues and priorities—especially when we are contemplating closing hospitals or maintaining low or inadequate levels of

workmen's compensation payments or family benefits assistance.

The cost of the Premier's office itself is indicative of spending trends in the province of Ontario. The total cost of this, I believe, now approaches something in the area of almost \$2 million per year. We have people in the building tripping all over themselves in that office—some in this building who could be replaced with signs.

From my perspective, many wage settlements bear no relationship to productivity. While I don't want to malign any particular union or group, I would say that some unions, both in the public and private sector, have abused their position. In Canadian society, we have rather inadequate methods of settling labour disputes. I would have hoped through the course of the Speech from the Throne that we would have seen some indication that some tremendous improvements would occur in the provincial sector. It is not surprising that we see the kind of unfortunate adversary types of systems that have developed.

It's obvious to me now that we would do well to consider new methods of settling disputes, and they should be implemented immediately. I refer now to the need for updating our labour laws, the possibility of labour courts, recognition of final-offer selection as a method of collective bargaining, and productivity incentives—especially incentives for profit-sharing which our tax system should recognize and encourage.

I'd like, very briefly, to make a few comments on private enterprise. Initially, I should admit my bias in this regard. I'm a product of that system and it's a way of life I prefer to see continued. The late Robert Winters, the former federal cabinet minister, a Liberal, and prominent Canadian industrialist, once stated: "The more good decisions made in board rooms, the fewer will have to be made in cabinet chambers." And, while that was said a number of years ago, I don't think that is wrong.

Not long ago the chairman of the board of Labatts, also the owner of our new Blue Jays, stated: "Government ownership is no substitute for and guarantee of good management." I think he was very correct in that regard.

Mr. Philip: We're not going to nationalize the Blue Jays.

Mr. Cunningham: No, I don't think the Blue Jays will have to be nationalized. They could use some hitters, I think, though.

I would have liked to have spent some time talking about the Anti-Inflation Board

and some other subjects, but time does not permit.

Before I would conclude, I would like to make a few brief remarks on our regional system of government in Hamilton-Wentworth. When it was imposed on my constituents, they were assured there would be no loss of autonomy, there would be improved services, better strategy for growth, and a break on municipal taxes. I would respectfully submit that the opposite has occurred. Services have declined, the taxes continue to go up, there is currently no strategy for growth, local communities are losing their identities, duplication and confusion prevails. I seriously feel that our fiscal situation in that area will continue to deteriorate if a complete administrative overhaul is not considered immediately.

I'm pleased to see that the provincial Treasurer is in his seat at this particular point in time, and, possibly, I might through this speech ask him to give serious consideration to such a review. I've done it on a number of occasions and I'd like to see it undertaken as soon as possible, because I seriously do not believe we are going to be able to continue that structure of government as it currently exists. I see some study was given recently to the Ottawa-Carleton area, and I would hope the same consideration would be given to our region. I appreciate the efforts of the many people who work in the region, or for the region, and particularly the chairman, who is a fine person. But until administrative reform occurs, the cost to the taxpayer, I believe, will continue to rise.

Some people refer to the Hamilton-Wentworth region as a family. To that end, given the increase in taxes and the decrease in services, I think some of the communities in my riding should sue for non-support.

These are exciting times in the province of Ontario. The challenges are many and I believe these are times that require effective and immediate solutions to the problems. I also believe all members of this House have the moral commitment to work together on these contentious issues and our main challenge, I believe, is to see it through.

Mr. Davison: It is with great pleasure that I rise to participate in the Throne Speech debate and to reply to the Speech from the Throne. I promise to keep my remarks rather short.

Since I was elected to this assembly, there has been one agency of government that has continually caused severe hardships to large numbers of my constituents. That agency is

the Workmen's Compensation Board. My staff and I have spent countless hours working with injured workmen trying to rectify some of the problems and some of the wrongs being done by this board in Hamilton. I can think of no agency that has caused more social damage in the community I represent.

There is something terribly wrong with the Workmen's Compensation Board and I'm thoroughly convinced that only the most drastic kind of action at this time can even begin to resolve the problems with the board. This is a most serious matter and I will not do it the injustice of attempting to deal with it in the limited time available in this debate. However, I would like to put the government on notice that I will take every opportunity in the coming months to raise this matter in an exhaustive fashion and to detail case after case where injustices have been perpetrated upon my constituents by the Workmen's Compensation Board. Let me assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I won't be the only member of the official opposition who will be doing so.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring before the House in some detail a matter that is becoming more and more urgent as the end of the month approaches. For some time now, I have been quite concerned about certain individuals and certain businesses that are purchasing income tax refunds at rather considerable discounts in this province. April 30 is the tax deadline, so the need for speedy action is quite obvious.

In early February, these companies came to my attention as the result of constituents coming into my office and complaining about them. These businesses take an individual's income tax information and provide an estimate of the tax refund. The client may then sell the full return for a portion of the refund which is then received in immediate cash. Power of attorney is turned over to the companies and the individual never sees the actual amount that he is reimbursed by the government. Any error, unintentionally or otherwise, on the part of the company or the individual can result in a substantial windfall profit for these companies without the knowledge of the client.

There is no standard percentage taken by these firms. What they do, is they make a determination, based on risk and based on the amount of money one is to get in his return, and refund him usually 60 per cent or less of the amount of money shown on your return. If one chooses to look at the fees they charge as interest rates, as some people do choose to look at them, com-

pounded annually they can equal 2,000 per cent in some cases. It's totally outrageous.

It was immediately apparent to me that the public was being ripped off by these companies. These companies have been, and still are, gouging those constituents of ours who can least afford it, the constituents of every member of this assembly, because the people most vulnerable to these services are those in such dire financial straits that immediate cash is necessary. I'm sure this House is the one forum in which I don't have to make the case against this kind of activity. I'm sure that all members understand the kind of social damage that can result when so much money is taken out of people's pockets.

Earlier this week, no less a radical rag than the *Toronto Star* criticized these activities in an editorial. It said: "There is something wrong when operators can prey on people, many of them unsophisticated and often desperate for money, by charging exorbitant rates." Even that champion of consumer rights, that Ralph Nader of Ontario, our own Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman), has lashed out at these firms. He said, and I quote: "We consider it almost to be a criminal offence," or, and I quote again: "In our view, they ought to be prohibited and not merely regulated." When constituents brought this matter to my attention, I made some initial inquiries.

[3:45]

Mr. Philip: But only by the federal government.

Mr. Davison: Yes, stand in line. I made some initial inquiries when my constituents brought this matter to my attention and I was quite surprised to find out that these operators aren't breaking any laws. They are not breaking any municipal laws, they are not breaking any federal laws. There is no legislation in place.

It seemed to me at the time that the obvious next step was to write our dear old Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations about the matter, and I did so on February 15, 1977. I explained the situation and asked the minister to investigate the matter. I suggested that he propose changes to current laws that would get these services under control.

On February 22, the minister put pen to paper and signed what seemed at the time to be a more or less reasonable reply to my request. After some bizarre and on my part

unsolicited comments, the gist of which seemed to have been an attack on the province of Quebec, the minister finally got down to the problem at hand. He parroted my concerns and explained that his ministry's legal advisers had told him there was no way in which the province of Ontario could claim jurisdiction in this matter.

He also told me he had absolutely no authority under The Business Practices Act to move against these corporations, and he was further able to inform me that the chances of a conviction under The Unconscionable Transactions Act were quite slight. The minister concluded his letter by saying, and I quote: "I must confess that I am as frustrated as you are in attempting to deal with these kinds of operations."

Mr. Speaker, if I might be able to suggest to you *en passant*, if the minister is as frustrated or even half as frustrated as I am, I think it's about time he stopped engaging in the practice of self frustration. At the time I wasn't prepared to drop the matter, so I looked into it further. I looked for solutions on the municipal level, the provincial level and the federal level, and I will deal with the municipal and federal aspects very briefly later on.

The minister clearly indicated to me in that letter that other provinces were not challenging the federal government by introducing their own legislation. I was absolutely shocked when I discovered some time later that several provinces were not only considering bringing in legislation but actually already had legislation in place. Manitoba and Saskatchewan both have excellent legislation which limits the discounters to five cents on the dollar. They are required to pay 95 cents on the dollar. Even British Columbia, which isn't exactly a bastion of progressive government these days, has legislation on the books which requires the discounters to pay 85 per cent.

Frankly, I didn't know what to think. I was absolutely sure that neither the minister nor his staff was deliberately trying to mislead me. The only other conclusion that I could draw from the minister's letter of February 15—I am sorry, February 22—was that his staff was so entirely ignorant of what was happening in the other provinces in this country that it suggested an unbelievable lack of competence on its part.

I wrote to the minister in rather strong terms suggesting he should make himself aware of the fact. I also asked him to introduce legislation when this House came back into session. I also told him I couldn't

imagine how he could possibly do anything less than that. Well, how poorly sometimes those of us in the opposition understand the reality of Tory government in Ontario. As my leader was saying the other day, for the Tories in Ontario, politics is very much the art of the minimum.

On March 31, at question period, I took the opportunity to ask the minister when he would introduce legislation. He took that opportunity to pass the buck along to Ottawa. Later on the same day, Ottawa passed the buck back to the province. The minister then had the unmitigated gall to attack those provinces in this country that were doing something to protect their citizens while he was sitting about doing absolutely nothing.

Mr. Makarchuk: That's normal for them.

Mr. Davison: I'm afraid it is.

Mr. Philip: Who was that, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations?

Mr. Davison: Yes, "commercial protection" I think is the new name for the ministry. He said that the legislation in the other provinces was completely unconstitutional, that they had no right to be passing it. Under questioning from the Leader of the Opposition the minister admitted that in fact no jurisdiction had had their legislation successfully challenged in the court.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell the members of this House that I take a very dim view of any minister of the Crown who thinks that he's a member of the judiciary branch of government rather than the executive or the legislative branch of government.

Mr. Makarchuk: Some of them think they are God.

Mr. Davison: Under questioning by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), the minister admitted that he hadn't even bothered to talk with the Minister of Revenue, his cabinet colleague, about the possibility of a provincial solution. Now, I ask, how do you deal with such a character?

On April 4 I was forced to introduce a private member's bill in an attempt to get some solution to this problem. I am sure it will be as effective as private members' bills in the past have been, because I'm due in the lottery for Christmas, and the deadline for this is April 30.

On April 5 the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations penned another of his very weird replies to me, in which he said he was deeply disturbed. I was in-

clined to agree with him. He also had managed to come up with an entirely new excuse for not acting—one that rather surprised me. Let me quote from that letter:

"We are all aware that there is now far too much legislative and administrative overlap between the two senior levels of government. Federal and provincial roles must be re-examined and rationalized. The case of the discounters is as clearcut a starting point as we will find."

My goodness, for the sake of rationalizing overlap—what greater cause?—this minister is prepared to allow the people of our province to be gouged. What a sad and sorry thing government in Ontario has become.

One of the arguments that the minister uses frequently to avoid having to regulate these businesses is this desire of his to completely prohibit these sophisticated loan-sharking operation. It's something new for him. That's not an opinion he held earlier on this issue, because in an appearance by him before a recent parliamentary committee he proposed the suggestion which he himself admitted would not eliminate the practice but rather make it less profitable. In other words, Mr. Speaker, regulating the practice. There are so many examples of this minister fudging on this issue that I can't possibly take the time to list them all.

I mentioned earlier that I would make some brief comments on the federal aspects of the situation and the municipal aspects of the situation, and I'd like to do so at this time. Clearly, the federal government is capable of acting in the matter. The reality, however, is that they have not yet passed legislation. That is not an excuse for this government to duck the issue; rather, it's cause for this government to take action of one sort or another. I might add that if we wait for the federal Liberals to act, we could all be waiting for a very, very long time.

On March 4 of this year I wrote to the Hon. John Munro, who is the federal Liberal member in the area that I represent in this House, and asked him for his assistance in speeding up federal legislation for the protection of our mutual constituents. To this date, a month later, he has yet to even acknowledge receipt of my letter, so I don't suggest we sit around waiting for the federal Liberal government to take action to protect the people of our province.

Last month I appeared before the city of Hamilton's legislation, fire and licence committee to ask the committee to enact a bylaw attempting to solve this problem.

The committee was quite concerned about the issue and they agreed with me. As members know, The Municipal Act does not specifically give the municipalities power to act in this area. Attack under the general sections of The Municipal Act, such as section 242, was rejected for rather obvious reasons by the city council. I am certain—I am absolutely certain—that if this province took the initiative to make some very minor changes in The Municipal Act—three or four words is all it would take—that several cities, several municipalities in our province would move to put these operators under control. I wonder, are all the members of this government, are all the members of this cabinet so unwilling to protect the consumers as the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations is? Why hasn't one of his colleagues moved to do something about it?

I've given this matter a great deal of thought and I've spent a fair amount of time on it, and I've come to the conclusion that it is clearly a question of consumer protection in Ontario for Ontario residents. The failure of this ministry to protect the consumers of our province, even though the need is totally documented and admitted by the minister—and let me say there are several ways in which it could be done—that unwillingness, that failure is totally unacceptable by any standard imaginable.

On April 4 in this House, the Leader of the Opposition remarked on this minister, and I think he expressed the real problem we're faced with in a way that few members of this House could have expressed it. I would like to associate myself with the remarks he made at that time. I would remind the members of just two sentences in those remarks, and I quote the Leader of the Opposition: "If I may submit to you humbly, Mr. Speaker, he is the wrong minister for anything to do with consumer protection—anything at all, whether it's rents or whether it's television repairs. His refusal to consider a simple intrusion on the private marketplace to protect consumers from illegitimate private behaviour makes this often unworkable; and it leads to the minister's own lovable eccentricities, which then govern, piously, the programmes we implement."

But perhaps even better than the Leader of the Opposition, the problem of the current minister is best understood by the current minister. I have a copy of his testimony before a parliamentary committee in which the minister stated, regarding this very matter of consumer protection that I have raised: "Leave alone those activities in the market-

place, which for the most part are self-regulatory. Again, we speak from the point of view of a philosophy. Our belief is that the less intrusion in this kind of thing, the better." Oh, that's a philosophy for you, boy.

In conclusion, I don't mean to condemn the current Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I don't mean to condemn him at all. I'm sure that he's well qualified to sit as a minister of the Crown in this province. The problem is, he's simply been given the wrong ministry. I am totally convinced, for example, that he would do a splendid job as the Minister without Portfolio.

I sincerely hope that this minister will step down from his position in the cabinet before April 30, so that something can be done about this problem and so something can be done about all the other problems faced in the field of consumer protection in this province.

[4:00]

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I want to discuss only one matter with you, sir, and the other members of the House who are gathered in such numbers this afternoon. It has to do with the government's decision to exempt Ronto Development Company from the payment of land speculation tax. The reason I bring this to your attention, sir, is that you are no doubt aware that in Votes and Proceedings, paper No. 1, there is a resolution passed by the standing committee on public accounts calling on the government to establish a select committee to look into this matter. I am afraid that it is not going to be raised by the government in any significant way, even though the instruction is there from the all-party committee, and is quite clear. I would hope, because of the information that has been put before the standing committee by the Provincial Auditor, that the government can be persuaded to take some positive action to remove the uncertainty, the lack of information and the cloud which lies over the judgement of the government in exempting Ronto Development from paying the land speculation tax.

I think you're aware, Mr. Speaker, that the matter was referred by special resolution of the House to the standing committee which was also granted the rather special power to sit when the Legislature itself was not in session. At the meeting on February 3, 1977, the Auditor, who attends all of the public accounts meetings and is the main source of professional advice in this connection, was instructed to gather information and documents pertaining to the decision of the

government to exempt Ronto Development Company from the payment of the land speculation tax.

The delay, until the Auditor brought the material before the committee on March 29, was caused by the fact that he had to undertake many visits to a number of offices to look over the extensive files in these offices of the papers and materials associated with the Ronto Development matter and then make judicious extraction from those documents; those which he felt would be of importance and significance to the standing committee on public accounts. So it wasn't until March 29 that the Auditor put the materials before the members of the committee for our perusal.

We had an opportunity to look at these documents and they were voluminous indeed. They formed a stack about six inches high, although they were all carefully indexed and tabulated so that we could consider them more readily than would have otherwise been the case. We came to the conclusion as a committee because of the importance of the matter and for other reasons that I'll bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, during the course of my remarks, that it was essential that this House move to establish a select committee so that a more careful investigation into this important matter could be undertaken.

I simply bring to your attention, sir, that the decision by order in council of the government meant that the Treasury of the province was by this decision in a position to forgo as much as \$2 million in legitimate taxation. Basically, Ronto Investments purchased the property, which was in Brant county and is now by annexation in the city of Brantford, for just under \$1.5 million. Less than two years later the property was sold for \$12 million. It was not developed as required by The Land Speculation Tax Act for forgiveness of the tax or exemption. It was by order in council that Ronto was exempted.

I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, first something about the land in question. It is a well known farm in the area of Brant county. I suppose if you were to pick out the best farming land in the whole of the county—you would find that farm among the 10 most productive, most fertile farms. Because of its location right close to the city of Brantford and now within the city of Brantford, I suppose it was inevitable that it be developed under the present procedures for land-use planning. I would think a decade from now it would be impossible, whatever government is in office in the province or in Canada, or

whatever the thoughts of any local council, to put that land to ordinary development purposes.

I feel it is essential—and I don't want to get off the track of my remarks—that this House takes action as soon as we possibly can to see that there is a procedure whereby such excellent land is not going to be developed in a way which means that forever it will be lost for the production of food material. I've heard so many members of this House talk about the need to protect class 1 land, but I wish that I could take the interested members to see that farm which is one of the best in the province.

A good friend of mine, James W. Pate, inherited it from his father. I can remember him being in high school when the sad news of Jim Pate's father dying came to our attention. Jim, who was 18 or even younger at that time, left school to take up farming full time. He has made an excellent success of it with the help of his charming wife, and I believe four or five sons, all of them very able young men, well known in the community.

The fact that the farm was on the edge of the very rapid development coming out toward the northeast from Brantford meant that under our present laws and planning regulations it was inevitable that it would be developed and Mr. Pate, I think very wisely, decided to take some initiative in that connection, and I understand sought out the possibilities of making a sale, so that he could use the proceeds to relocate himself and his family so that they could continue farming with the skill that they have and enjoying the lifestyle which certainly is an enviable one.

I wanted just to indicate, however, sir, the materials that came before the standing committee which prompted us to consider and finally pass a resolution calling for the establishment of a select committee to look into this. Because the first instance that concerned us was that the government, in giving its indication of the reasons for the exemption from the land speculation tax, decided that the transfer of the land from Mr. Pate to Ronto took place on September 18, 1973.

Mr. Speaker, I apologize in advance for having to refer to some specific dates, but they are essential, because this Legislature in its wisdom passed the land speculation tax on April 9, 1974. As a matter of fact that is not the date it was passed, but it was introduced into the Legislature following the Treasurer's budget of that time, and it was many weeks later before it became law.

But one of the sections indicated that its application began April 9, 1974.

Now the document that the Auditor provided for us was referred to by the solicitor for Ronto when he appeared before our committee, Mr. E. A. Goodman. He indicated that the document itself was essentially the sale document. It was then possible for the officials in the Ministry of Revenue to establish the sale date at that time.

Upon examination of that document it became clear that it was very little more than an offer to purchase, very little more than an option—a nine-month to a 12-month option—giving Ronto the opportunity to buy the property if certain conditions were fulfilled. For a period of nine months Mr. Pate, the original owner, was not permitted to sell the property to anyone else. I suppose it was on that basis that the solicitor for Ronto wanted to have the earlier date established as the date of the sale of the land or the acquisition of the land.

Now in fact the deed was transferred much later than that. It was transferred on June 25, 1974. Since this was substantially after The Land Speculation Tax Act went into force, the timing of the sale for taxation purposes is of great importance indeed.

One of the first questions that was asked the Provincial Auditor was as to his opinion on the decision made by the Ministry of Revenue on whether or not the sale took place the previous fall, that is before the land speculation tax became law, or in fact after it. The Provincial Auditor said—and I don't blame him for this—"I am not a lawyer, but in my opinion the sale took place after The Land Speculation Tax Act came into force."

I will try to explain in a few moments how important this is. It has no bearing on any possible payment by Mr. Pate of this tax, because you can easily find that the transaction between Ronto and Mr. Pate was at a level where no land speculation tax would be paid, and of course Mr. Pate had been the owner and the bona fide farmer of the property for his whole lifetime, and his father and his grandfather before him. So we are not talking about that particular matter.

As a matter of fact, although it has no significance in this House, Mr. Pate will be subject to the federal tax, capital gains tax, because the valuation, of course, would have gone up from the evaluation day pertaining to the federal capital gains legislation. There is a strange anomaly in that case where the one government is attempting to set a value

which would mean that the value of the Pate land to Mr. Pate had accrued to the largest amount so that he would be liable for the largest amount of capital gains tax, whereas another government seems to be attempting to establish a value in a slightly different direction for special purposes of the land speculation tax computations.

But I wanted to bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, that the Auditor himself expressed an opinion to the committee that he felt for tax purposes the sale of the land should properly be construed as of June 25, 1974. There is no verbatim record of the statements made before the committee on public accounts and I trust that I am in no way misleading the House in putting to you, sir, in the words that I have used, what I consider to be the views expressed by the Auditor.

But I would also like to quote from one of the papers that the Auditor put before us. It is a letter signed by Mr. I. Stephenson, one of the directors of the Ministry of Revenue, and I quote from the fourth paragraph of his letter dated February 18, 1976. "On the basis of the information provided, it would appear that the designated lands were acquired by the transferor after April 9, 1974."

So in the first instance when this matter was brought to the attention of the Ministry of Revenue it was clear to them that the transference date from Mr. Pate to Ronto was after the establishment of The Land Speculation Tax Act. The reason that this is important is that because of certain events which I don't intend to be talking about here in any detail, Ronto felt that they did not want to carry on the development of the land themselves to the point where they were fully serviced and the lots ready for building. They entered almost immediately into negotiations with a company called George Wimpey Canada Limited for the sale of the whole tract of land, about 340 acres.

It is interesting to see the documents indicating that the exchanges of views between these two large development firms, and without going into any detail, it is clear that the transference was intended to be made, for example, without a real estate agent having been involved. It is interesting to note that the transference from Mr. Pate to Ronto Development makes no indication of any agent having been present or having been used in the transference or the sale of the property. But when Ronto finally did decide that it was going to complete a sale to

Wimpey, then the amount of \$12 million, which was the purchase price, an extremely high price indeed, a very profitable price indeed, would give some real concern as to the payment of the land speculation tax.

Whereas the solicitor for Ronto, Mr. Goodman, had indicated in his letter to the Ministry of Revenue that a good deal of development had already taken place, still there is not a clear indication that the land was serviced to the extent, as Mr. Goodman said in his letter to the Ministry of Revenue, and I believe I can quote it: "The pipes are practically in the ground." It was really far from that. And while this may have just been more or less a loose use of words, still there is no indication that the land itself was developed and was therefore under the provisions of The Land Speculation Tax Act that it could be exempted.

It was not developed. In fact, it was sold by Ronto to Wimpey and was developed after that sale took place; that is, the servicing was established well after that sale took place.

I can quote. Mr. Speaker, from a communication addressed to Mr. I. Stephenson, director, succession duty branch, Ministry of Revenue, from the solicitor for Ronto. The letter is dated February 13 and he says in the second page, the third paragraph: "You will notice that it is also a term of the condition that a subdivision agreement be assigned prior to the closing. In short, our client has done everything except put the pipes into the ground."

[4:15]

Obviously the solicitor for Ronto had to use all of his undoubted abilities to persuade the Ministry of Revenue that an exemption could be recommended to the government of Ontario on a bona fide basis. I'm not for a moment saying this letter is misleading, other than to say that there is no evidence that was put before the committee that the services were in. As a matter of fact, the member for Brantford (Mr. Makarchuk), who at that particular time had just left his services as a councillor for the city of Brantford, was able to bring to us the dates for the calling of contracts for the servicing of this land and those dates were very much later than the dates of the matters that I am putting before you, Mr. Speaker, today.

I have also been considerably concerned as well that an evaluation of the property known now as Brantwood Estates—it used to be the Brantwood Farm—in our area, was carried out by a firm from Waterloo, W. H. Reimer. The

evaluation was carried out on behalf of Ronto, who were very much concerned that the huge profit, if it were to be taxable based on the price they had given Mr. Pate, would have subjected them to a land speculation tax in excess of \$2 million. So they hired Mr. Reimer to make an evaluation of the property at valuation day for land speculation tax which was April 9.

By coincidence, the same firm, W. H. Reimer, had been inserted into the Pate-Ronto deal as an agent and had been paid \$36,250 on June 4, 1974, in its capacity as an agent. The same firm, according to the material given to us by the Auditor, was used to evaluate the same property for the purposes of the sale by Ronto to George Wimpey Canada Limited, and in order to establish a value for the land. Mr. Reimer, as certainly was appropriate, examined the sales of a number of properties in the area at about that time, and in this connection there is a further communication from the solicitor for Ronto indicating as follows—this is a letter from the solicitor for Ronto, once again to Mr. I. Stephenson of the Ministry of Revenue, dated March 10, 1976. Now I quote from the main paragraph of the letter:

"The designated lands were purchased under an agreement of purchase and sale dated September 18, 1973." In parenthesis, I simply bring to the attention of the House that this follows the one from Mr. Stephenson indicating that the sale was after April 7, 1974. So they're trying to establish this date for evaluation purposes. "The transaction was closed on June 26, 1974. The valuation we have used as of April 9, 1974, can be substantiated by sales of adjacent properties owned by one Webster which sold at a price of \$20,000 an acre. Prior to April 9, 1974, our client's lands were annexed to the city of Brantford which substantially increased its value."

Now written in the margin of the letter that is provided to us by the Provincial Auditor is a notation, "October 1, 1974." In other words, in spite of the letter signed by the solicitor for Ronto, Mr. E. A. Goodman, the annexation did not take place prior to April 9, but in fact took place some months later, October 1, 1974. The letter also refers to the fact that the property owned by one Webster was used as the basis for evaluation. Now one Webster happens to be Max Webster, who is a well-known entrepreneur, a farmer—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) keep his voice down? I under-

stand he's the next speaker on my list. The hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has the floor.

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Breaugh: He's warming up.

Mr. Nixon: The gentleman who is referred to in Mr Goodman's letter is the vice-chairman of the Ontario Racing Commission, obviously a good friend of Mr. Ron Todgham, now deceased. The valuation of the Ronto land—president, Mr. Todgham—has been established basically by comparing it with the value of the lands owned by Mr. Max Webster in a nearby and adjoining area. Upon reading, as carefully as we can, the documents that the Auditor has provided for us, it's clear that Mr. Webster and the representatives of Ronto—whether it was Mr. Todgham at that time or not—co-operated in working with the city of Brantford on the establishment of this area and its developmental plan.

I would emphasize to you, Mr. Speaker, that in terms of what I'm talking about now, I can't see anything wrong in the procedures. I would be critical of the solicitor for Ronto for perhaps overstating the position of the lands under discussion because they had not been annexed, as his letter claimed, and there is some indication that the servicing of the land had not gone nearly as far as the letter had indicated.

When we come to the sale of the properties from Ronto to Wimpey, which had been negotiated all during this year, the Auditor has provided the members of the committee with a number of draft agreements. On a number of these agreements, we find it is clearly indicated that no agent would be used in the sale. As a matter of fact, it states clearly in some of the drafts: "No agent used."

After a while, particularly when it becomes quite clear that the sale from Ronto to Wimpey is not going to go forward—because, at the price at which the land is going to be transferred, the \$2 million or nearly \$2 million in land speculation tax tends, let's say, to dilute the advantages of the sale to some extent—there's a tendency for the negotiations to sag a bit. Then another draft comes forward and there is an agent referred to.

Let me make it clear that the seller, Ronto, and the buyer, Wimpey, were clearly in negotiation for some months before the agent, Ernest Goodman—and I want to make it clear that this is not the E. A. Goodman

who was the solicitor for Ronto—was brought on the scene.

Mr. Ferrier: Is he related?

Mr. Nixon: It is very interesting to see the documents as they were put before us by the Auditor, because the first communication directed to Mr. Ernest Goodman was delivered by hand to the Primrose Club. There's some indication that they didn't even know where to find his business address, although that, of course, seems to be incredible. But the copies of the letter put before the members of the committee indicated that the communication was put before the agent at the Primrose Club.

It's very difficult to see what function the real estate agent, Ernest Goodman, was able to perform, since the buyer and the seller were already in quite deep negotiation—over the numbers of lots that would be transferred and the whole thing—and the copies of these negotiating forms have been put before us. Then this agent comes along. I'm sure he's a bona fide agent, a very able person indeed, but it seems to me that he did little or nothing for the fee of \$400,000 that was paid to him.

Mr. Worton: That is a commission.

Mr. Nixon: All of these matters have given rise to a concern by the members of the committee. To begin with, we were not persuaded to accept the decision of the Ministry of Revenue that the transference from Mr. Pate to Ronto was, in fact, on September 18, 1973. We can understand why Ronto would like that, and we have no objection at all to their solicitor writing to the government to persuade them that the government's first reaction—that is, that the sale was later—was wrong. That's surely why you hire a lawyer. That's probably why you hire a good lawyer. It's probably why you hire the very best lawyer you can under those circumstances. And that's certainly what Ronto did.

But we are very concerned that the officials in the Ministry of Revenue, and the minister, saw fit to recommend to the cabinet that the purchase date was June 25 and that the amount of tax that would otherwise have been collectable would have been something like \$400,000, rather than \$2 million. We are concerned that the government should excuse Ronto completely from paying speculation tax on property for which they paid \$1.5 million and sold less than two years later for \$12 million.

The committee has examined it. It's difficult to keep the date straight and to put all the correspondence in some kind of order. The only person that we on the committee are criticizing is the Minister of Revenue and the government who took his recommendation that there should be an exemption established by order in council. We feel the reasons given by the former Minister of Revenue were inadequate.

Mr. Drea: You weren't even there.

Mr. Nixon: He indicated that after the unfortunate—

Mr. Drea: You weren't even there when he gave them.

Mr. Nixon: I certainly was.

Mr. Drea: You were not here when he gave them.

Mr. Nixon: I believe the member is right. I was not at the committee when he gave those reasons.

Mr. Drea: You are right: You are absolutely right.

Mr. Nixon: They were fully reported and there was nothing secret about the position put before the committee by the government. If the hon. member who may speak next—and probably he will be speaking all the time now that he's in here—is indicating that there is some information that I put forward that is not factual, then he will have every opportunity to put that forward before the House.

Mr. Makarchuk: You were not there either, Frank. You were not there either.

Mr. Drea: I'm not saying that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Nixon: All right. The former Minister of Revenue had come to the committee, and it was fully reported. Of course, I was very interested in it, since it involved land well known to me and formerly in Brant county. I was particularly interested that the minister said: "Upon the unfortunate and unexpected death of Mr. Todgham, who was well known in the community and had served on a number of boards and was extremely active in many business areas, evidently there were some problems with the estate and that liquidity was essential." Therefore, the government had to permit the sale to Wimpey, which had given an undertaking to carry on with the development of the land and build

the houses because it wanted the government to make an exemption of the tax for that purpose.

There has been no evidence given to our committee of the problems that the Todgham estate had with liquidity. There is no evidence of the problem that Ronto had with liquidity. As a matter of fact, it was pointed out by the member for Brantford and is evident to anyone who listens to Channel 11 television, Ronto has bought some of those serviced lots back; they're building houses on them and they're advertising in the Hamilton area for people to come up to Brantford and enjoy the obvious advantages of living in that part of the world. That's very, very sensible for business people to do that.

So the reasons for the exemption are completely inadequate. The problems that the government has had with this may have come to a head when we see that the Minister of Revenue does no longer hold that portfolio.

Mr. Drea: Shame. What a cheap shot.

Mr. Nixon: Shame? He was removed from the portfolio and he's now Minister of Correctional Services.

Mr. Drea: What a cheap shot.

Mr. Nixon: And I will tell you—if that isn't a demotion, what is? I don't think the man warranted that, since the decision to exempt Ronto was not made by the Minister of Revenue but made by the whole cabinet. That is the objection that we have.

Mr. Drea: On the same basis you should be the Liberal leader today. What a cheap shot.

Mr. Nixon: I have tried to put before you and the members of this House not the whole compendium of information that was put before us by the Auditor. He gave us three books—bigger than this—of the extracts from the correspondence and the accounts of all the companies concerned. The Auditor himself indicated to us that the dates of the transfers from Pate to Ronto were different from the one that the government has accepted. The letter from the officials of the Ministry of Revenue indicated that the date was the date after the establishment of the land speculation tax.

We're very concerned about these matters. We're particularly concerned that in these times, by decision of the government's order in council, Ronto has been exempted from

paying the amount of tax that has been previously referred to.

[4:30]

As a matter of fact, I just wanted to make one reference to the amount of that tax because the Auditor was asked by the public accounts committee to determine how much tax had been foregone. His conclusions were that approximately \$400,000 had been foregone. At the time the application from Ronto for this matter before the Ministry of Revenue, they asked the solicitor for Ronto to make an application indicating the figures that would normally be used to compile the tax. While Mr. Goodman or the person from the solicitor's office for Ronto did not fill in the bottom line, the 20 per cent tax on the taxable amount would, according to Mr. Goodman's office, mean that we have foregone \$660,000.

Let me put it to you this way, Mr. Speaker: If the purchase of that land was not the date put forward by Ronto but in fact the date when they got the deed, which is the date of acquisition for all of the other business of government, then the value of that land when it was purchased was \$1,484,900 and they sold it for \$12 million. With certain deductions that are allowed under the statute, it means that the tax payable would have been close to \$2 million.

There are many things associated with this. The very fact that that land for development, which was sold in good faith by one of the best citizens in the community for a good and fair price—and there's no complaint about that—escalated in a few months to \$12 million and all of that unconscionable profit is now built into the cost of those lots, really means that because of the inadequate application of the laws of this province the taxpayers really are taking a beating in more ways than one.

Mr. Ruston: It's the buyer who pays.

Mr. Nixon: As my colleague says, it's the buyer who pays and certainly the developers are not out of pocket in this connection. There's a good deal of controversy in our own area now that that land is being developed, and that's too late. We are not going to save it. I wish you could see it, Mr. Speaker, a fine bush, flat level corn land, a fine old farm house and building. That's going to be gone. But when you see what's going in its place, you almost cringe to think what kind of a community is going to be there 20 years from now. If we are not building a slum for two decades from now or maybe less time, I will be surprised.

In an effort to put these houses on the market at a competitive price, and that's what we want, the price of that land has meant that the value of the house itself is far lower than what it should be. Many people have phoned me and said, "Isn't there some way you can stop the building of those kinds of houses?" I don't want to be critical. People are going to live there and I am sure they are very proud of what they have got, but I will tell you it could have been a lot better, Mr. Speaker.

I believe the reasons for the exemption were completely inadequate. Because of these reasons and others put forward by other members of the committee, we discussed and debated a motion calling for a select committee of the House. The whip of the government party was there and he pointed out very properly we are not supposed to have select committees except in matters of grave importance. We can say we believe this is a matter of grave importance and we feel the best way to look into this is by means of a select committee.

The public accounts committee was just organized today and named its chairman. This was briefly discussed but not at any great length. But they have the full public accounts, a new volume that has never even been cracked. It is up to them to review and examine. That's their job now.

Mr. Drea: I notice you're not on it.

Mr. Nixon: If they are going to stick with Ronto in that committee, they could undertake the examination for many months indeed. There is no lawyer in that committee who is seconded to it, although there are lawyers on the committee. But their legal opinion may perhaps be something less than completely objective on all sides. So obviously we have got to have an examination of this matter in as independent a style as we possibly can. It is obvious as well that there has to be competent legal opinion advising the members of the committee that do the examination.

I can see that the government might not want to turn this over to a select committee of the House with the establishment as it presently is.

Mr. Drea: How about a judicial inquiry?

Mr. Nixon: The hon. member, interjecting as he does so well, says how about a judicial inquiry? I feel that a reference to a judicial inquiry is more appropriate when there is some indication of malfeasance.

Mr. Drea: You are grasping now.

Mr. Nixon: In this instance, we are critical of the government's bad judgement and interested in learning the reasons for the government's decision in foregoing this tax. This is a matter for the House, not for a judge, but if the government does not want to have a select committee, as is recommended by the resolution that has been sitting before this House, then it should do something else with it. If you want a judicial inquiry I would think that's fine, but that is an indication that they feel that there has been some malfeasance, in my opinion.

I believe that it should be investigated by a select committee of this House, and that is why I put forward the resolution which was carried by the committee, and the resolution is found on page 14 of Votes and Proceedings No. 1. It says:

"The committee is of the opinion that the government's exemption of Ronto Development Corporation from land speculation tax by regulation made April 14, 1976, and all circumstances related thereto, require the fullest investigation; which can best be conducted by a select committee of the Legislature with power to sit while the House is in session, power to retain counsel and staff, and power to send for persons and papers.

"The committee further recommends that the Legislature constitute such committee as soon as possible in the new session"—that's now—"and that the committee report back to the House no longer than six weeks after its inception." This last was an amendment put forward by the member for Brantford.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this is a matter of grave importance to the House, and I hope that the government is not going to ignore it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Scarborough Centre now has the floor. I hope other members will afford him a better opportunity to be heard than he provided to the previous speaker.

Mr. Drea: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As somebody who first congratulated you some years ago, and I am going to do it again today, I believe you are the finest introduction to an institution of any Parliament in Canada that has been.

Mr. Nixon: Better leave it there.

Mr. Drea: But by the same token, Mr. Speaker, I really think that you have to leave some discretion when people are inordinately moved. Having been with you, Mr. Speaker,

on several committees, you expressed that opinion to me—

Mr. J. R. Smith: Three cheers for the Irish.

Mr. Breithaupt: Up the Irish.

Mr. Drea:—and I am certain that in your chair, and it has now been confirmed and really set as a precedent, that I really think that the authority goes with the discretion.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk to you just for a moment because it's customary in these debates. When I said that you were the finest introduction into any Parliament in Canada, it was not gratuity. It was not asking that you refrain from using your harsh voice against me when I am wrong. It was meant as a very sincere compliment. I happen to think that the parliamentary system needs just a slight bit of reform. I think one of the reforms has to be that when we are fortunate enough in the chamber, and it is within the chamber that we elect a Speaker, that we find somebody who is so extraordinary in the particular complex and sophisticated times in which we live—

Mr. Conway: Don't blush.

Mr. Drea:—that I really think it becomes an onus upon the members of the chamber, regardless of the political affiliation, that we have to really look at the institution.

One of the things that the institution of Parliament in this country needs, and I am neither radical nor new in this because certainly in the federal House they explored it in the 1960s, and a great many provincial Houses have explored it—I think now is the time in this province, as the bellwether province of Canada, that the parties get together and I think that now is the time that we begin to elect a permanent Speaker.

I say that for two reasons: One, it is needed. There is no question that we're into precedents, we're into parliamentary procedure. The thing that bothers me in the precedents is that while the Speaker ordinarily is a member of the government party—and I am quite sure all my friends in the House today are prepared to explain why that has to be—it is very difficult to tell the people outside how a person who is a member of the government party can be depended upon to preserve democratic rights, no matter what the occasion, no matter what the cause. That is a very difficult thing to explain, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that in your riding particularly, remote, away from the centre of communications as it is, that that was—I'm going to use

the past tense, was—a very difficult thing to explain. I assure you, sir, in these days you can use the present tense and I am quite sure your constituents would applaud.

The second reason is, I think we need continuity in parliamentary government. Certainly in the sixties and certainly the particular occasion that was looked upon was in a riding to the east of all of us, it was in Cornwall. And not because of the good faith of the particular participant, who was the Speaker in the federal House at that time, but because of disagreements among those of us who were underneath him. It was a political disagreement. I think that we as members sometimes have to recognize that we have political disagreements.

Mr. Conway: Just sometimes.

Mr. Drea: A pioneering effort in the government of Canada for the Parliament of Canada that really was to determine a permanent Speaker was to have been achieved. It broke down because we—those of us underneath the Speaker—from political partisanship or political whatever, couldn't agree. I think that was a very great loss to this country. I think, particularly today in terms of the very real struggle we have to keep not only a face of nationhood but a real nationhood, some time in the future that may have been one of the landmarks that we didn't achieve.

Mr. Conway: How about electing a Supreme Court?

Mr. Drea: I want to suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that now in this Parliament, because we are the bellwether of Canada, we are the example of Canada, I think the time has come—

Mr. Conway: Are you an example, Frank?

Mr. Drea: —and I say this to you with all due respect, sir, because I know your modesty, I think now the time has come that we really look in this Parliament, even though it is a provincial Parliament, at setting up an effective, an efficient method of electing a permanent Speaker. And, sir, with you in the chair, I say to you, as an example that may defeat all of the objections, you as an example, sir, I really think we can move forward, and I recommend that, not only to this government but to all the people in the House. I think we are very fortunate to have a man of your calibre in the chair today. I think we are very fortunate.

Mr. Ruston: However!

Mr. Conway: It's an Irish conspiracy, Frank.

Mr. Drea: With the present Speaker there are no "however's." I say that to you, Mr. Speaker, in all sincerity. I say that to you, recognizing your own modesty, and I say that in a bit of humbleness. I have thought about that for some time and I have certainly recommended it to this government, and I certainly hope it permeates right through the House. I think we can set an example in these very troubled times in this country—

Mr. Conway: Have you discussed it with the member for Northumberland (Mr. Rowe)?

Mr. Drea: —for the people who can adjudge fairly and honestly regardless of their political affiliation, and, sir, you have always done that. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to my friend, the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Lawlor), having been here for a little while, I learned one thing from the member for Lakeshore a long time ago: The first thing you do is placate the Speaker.

[4:45]

An hon. member: You've done a good job today.

Mr. Drea: Sir, I haven't placated you; I've elevated you. But there are other attendants in the House who I think should have some recognition, at least upon one occasion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: As long as you address your remarks to the Chair.

Mr. Drea: Yes, sir.

Mr. Conway: Leave the Irishmen alone.

Mr. Drea: With all due respect to your position, Mr. Speaker, there are times when you can leave. There is one person who is attendant upon this chamber who really can't leave, and that is the Sergeant at Arms.

Mr. Nixon: Great fellow.

Mr. Davidson: That's the end of your career.

Mr. Conway: This makes the member for Oriole (Mr. Williams) sound good.

Mr. Drea: The Sergeant at Arms really has the most onerous duty of any person either elected or appointed in this province: He has to listen to these sonorous debates.

Mr. Nixon: I think it is time he performed that duty.

Mr. Ruston: He's got his earplug unplugged.

An hon. member: Not now he hasn't.

Mr. Drea: He has to attend upon all of us with attention and decorum. He has to be prepared for the call. I know you have been here longer than I have, Mr. Speaker, but after six years I can tell you that any man who is prepared to listen to our sonorous dissertations, who is ready to spring into action at a moment's notice, is really somebody who is prepared to give his all to public service.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Drea: In my address, Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your particular attention to Mr. Thomas Stelling, who is our Sergeant at Arms. I don't think there is recognition any other time. I wish there were. But certainly this is an event where I think all of us can show our appreciation to our Sergeant at Arms.

[Applause.]

Mr. Conway: Now to beer in the ball park.

Mr. Cunningham: Let's get to beer in the ball park, Frank.

Mr. Drea: Not me, I don't—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I hope you will deal with them as firmly and as directly as you have dealt with me in the past.

Mr. Moffatt: Teasing the bears.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You have my assurance that I will monitor it constantly.

Mr. Drea: Good.

Turning formally to the Speech from the Throne, the one thing that impresses me is that one of the measures of a government is how it deals with a problem before it becomes a crisis. I really think that is the measure of government today. It's all very well to say we're into a crisis, but one of the difficulties with telling the public we're into a crisis is that there is an emotional upheaval that gets up to here and then it drops down because there is another emotional upheaval.

The strength and the stability of this government—and that is the Davis government—

Mr. Conway: Fifty-one seats.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Fifty-two.

Mr. Conway: The member for London North (Mr. Shore) doesn't count.

Mr. Moffatt: Fifty-one and a half.

Mr. Drea: —is underscored by the outstanding statesmanship and leadership of the Premier of this province, Bill Davis.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: More important than Jack Horner.

Mr. Conway: Only just.

Mr. Drea: That leadership and that statesmanship are underscored in these very troubled times because we're into emotional times. I realize there are some giggles from the Liberal bench. If I didn't have anything else to do, I would giggle too.

Mr. Conway: You are pretty laughable, Frank.

Mr. Drea: I understand that there can be giggles. I suppose when you are a political party that has been found bankrupt nationally, and when there is the threat of separatism and the threat of the fabric of the Canadian dream being ripped apart, which is basically the fault of the Liberal Party, I can understand why there are only five in there and they giggle. They can't give an answer.

Mr. Samis: Don't worry. They are going to get Horner.

Mr. Conway: What's the dream?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Renfrew North doesn't have to respond to every phrase by the speaker.

Mr. Warner: He doesn't have much to do.

Mr. Drea: Because of the events of the last six or seven months, we live today in Canada in a dreadfully emotional time. We can pick up things in the media whether we want to read them or whether we want to tune in to them at night. We can hear about this event or that event taking place to the east of us. We can read about the threat of separatism where people stand up very proudly in this country and say they are going to tear this country apart. We either read or see or hear that every day.

It takes a leader of uncommon statesmanship and leadership ability to remain calm to present a very positive and a very concrete programme from a province, not from the federal sphere. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect I think that you and I as private members, divorced from this occasion to-

day, have some suggestions. But I suggest to you that the leader of a province and of the province that will determine whether there is going to be a Canadian dream or not in these times has to remain calm and stable and above all to present a concrete and a practical series of solutions to the dilemma we find ourselves in.

I realize there are some yahoos in the House. They would like to go back to Fort Sumter in 1861. They have never smelt powder so they would like to shoot a cannonball. That is not the way in these times that a fabric of unity is preserved. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, it is by leadership, it is by statesmanship and above all it has to come from a province. No matter what the rhetoric, no matter what the language, no matter what the issue, the basic issue is the right of a province to say: "We will control our own destiny and we will do it, and if you don't agree we will pull out."

There isn't a very great deal of difference between the province of Quebec in 1977 and the state of South Carolina in 1860. Take away the language, take away a little bit of the changes and there is really nothing different. In the way that the United States handled the issue—and this is in retrospect, this is many years ago—I don't really think, looking upon history, they had any other choice. I do not think, with all due respect, that is the way in 1977 that Canadians in 10 provinces—and we do have 10 provinces—want the particular issue settled.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out to you in the Throne Speech that the strength and stability of this government—and I am proud to be a member of this government—is underscored by the outstanding statesmanship and leadership of the Premier in these emotional times.

Mr. Cunningham: Where is he right now?

Mr. Drea: I will read from the first five pages of the Speech from the Throne. I am going to condense some of it and I am going to give my interpretation.

Mr. Samis: Amen to that.

Mr. Drea: The Premier of this province has remained calm despite the antics of some of those who want to lead an expeditionary force into Quebec.

Mr. McClellan: You should follow his example.

Mr. Samis: Especially with Marc Lalonde.

Mr. Drea: The Premier of this province has taken a firm and a practical stand so that, for the first time — and I emphasize — by a province—

Mr. Sargent: You'll still be in the back row, Frank.

Mr. Drea: —the equality and the distribution of income and the opportunities of this country are going to be determined on a national scale and not by an accident of geography. Now, Mr. Speaker, I remind you, the federal government has been saying that for some time. I know of no other province that has put it on the line that that equality of opportunity, the equality of income, the equality to participate has to be an integral part of this country or we don't have a country.

In all due fairness, Mr. Speaker, if we cannot achieve that then I really suggest to you, sir, that really we have to start looking at what is a country really for. I know that I certainly can't look at the people in Quebec when there is economic disparity, there is disparity between opportunity, there is not the right under Confederation, under the flag of this country, to achieve your own destiny because the odds are against you from the first place then, Mr. Speaker, I will say to you, heretical as it may sound, I will say to people, okay, you do have the right.

I may be naive, but I do believe with some simple and fundamental changes, and mind you, the mechanics of them may be very complex and may be very sophisticated. They are not the things that we can do in this chamber in the afternoon, nor can our colleagues do in Ottawa in one afternoon, or in the other nine provincial assemblies. They may not be the kinds of things we can do in one afternoon. They may not be the kinds of things we can do in one week. They may take years.

But I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that this Throne Speech from this Premier of this province has put it right down on the line that we may be the wealthiest and we may have it made and we may be the great "have," but read those first five pages of that Throne Speech and we are going to sacrifice and we are going to endeavour and we are going to put the things forward, so we won't need to go into this kind of thing about "We are going to win the hearts and the minds," and all of this. We can't win the heart and mind of a person who can't even achieve his or her own destiny, who's got to be in a second-class existence. That's stuff is nonsense.

I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, the first five pages of this Throne Speech are the stuff of what we, as Canadians, are known for. It may be difficult. It may be long. It is not going to happen in an afternoon. We are not going to take a vote. I suppose it may in the end be a consensus but, Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you this is the only way we are going to keep the Canadian dream.

Somebody has asked me: "What's the Canadian dream?" I'll tell you what the Canadian dream is to me. There are 10 provinces in this country and I like to think that all children born have the opportunity to fulfil their opportunities as much as they are able, according to their own talents, according to their own desires, but they have that opportunity. They are not denied because of this, this, this or this and including the worst of all, an accident of geography.

I suggest to you in the first five pages of the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, we have really achieved something in this country. I suggest to you this is the first time that a province has said this. Let's be honest about it.

[5:00]

Mr. Conway: For a change.

Mr. Drea: Ontario is the wealthiest province in this country. If we are going to do this, then you and I are going to have to make sacrifices, Mr. Speaker. Not only you and I, but our constituents are going to have to make sacrifices. You are going to have to answer that they don't have three stereos in every room.

Mr. Conway: And a chicken in every pot.

Mr. Drea: You are going to have to answer. I happen to feel that the members of this assembly are the people who can go out and say, without fear or favour, that maybe the standard of living—or the artificial standard of living, or whatever, that we have in this country—is maybe not the best in terms of family life or a lot of other things.

Mr. Conway: McMurtry says so.

Mr. Drea: Perhaps it is time— Sorry, you said McMurtry?

Mr. Conway: Go ahead; you are going to elect the Supreme Court.

Mr. Drea: Certainly, they could trim their expense accounts, my friend. The member can tell them that. I think the time has come in this country when either we want a country and a society that has a fundamental identity—and that identity to be Canadian.

I know in the member's time, and in his particular area—and I'm drawing particular reverence to him—that nobody in his particular area ever asked for the accent on the English as long as the person could do the job. I think maybe that is the kind of thing we have to get back to, and not all this nonsense about provincial rights and federal rights and what it's going to do to the constitution.

For heaven's sake, we couldn't even repatriate a constitution; that was before Rene Levesque was elected. We couldn't even repatriate it then. Now we're going to repatriate the constitution on the grounds that Rene Levesque has been elected. The thing that bothers me is—what happens when the provinces and the federal government get into the room? Finally, after all these years, and knowing deep down it would never come, we have the constitution in a room.

Mr. Sargent: Joe Clark will fix it. Get Joe Clark—he will do it.

Mr. Drea: I suggest to the House that the first five pages of the Speech from the Throne are really a new declaration of principle in this country. If I was in a "have-not" province—and I won't mention them, but there are those—that kind of thing would be the kind of thing that we do every year. If I was in a province where the "have" and the "have-not" were pretty equalized and we were playing little games with the federal government as to whether we get more on this end or a little bit on that end, I wouldn't be concerned. But I suggest to the House that this is the most "have" province of Canada, we are the "haves". We have been the "haves" since even prior to 1867.

Mr. Davidson: A lot of people have been had, that is for sure.

Mr. Sargent: Fourteen-billion-dollar debt—

Mr. Warner: We have the biggest debt, the largest unemployment. We have a lot of things.

Mr. Drea: I suggest to the House that it is really a matter of statesmanship and leadership for a province that has nothing to lose in terms of the economics of the standard of living—

Ms. Brydent: Highest unemployment.

Mr. Drea: —to say that Confederation is basically, in the 20th century, a matter of economic equality. I suggest that that is

leadership and that is statesmanship, because we all know there are a number of provinces who are below the equality level. Those are the "have-nots". We have some that are "have"; we have some that are in-between. It depends upon the petroleum revenue. We have to have a dominion-provincial conference to determine whether the accounting ability really reflects.

In the first few pages of this document there are no excuses, there are no exemptions. It is that there is going to be an end to economic disparity and the accidents of geography and the impingements upon economic opportunity, period, right across this country.

Sir, I suggest to you for about the fourth time, this is leadership and this is statesmanship from the province that, with all due respect, sir, has nothing to lose and only everything to gain from the disturbances going across this country. I want to underline that that is not the feeling of you, Mr. Speaker, or me or my colleagues or of the House, but I think we have to look at economic realities.

We have nothing to lose in terms of economics. We have launched a very new and a very real plateau in this country. We have put a plateau that is as important in the 20th century as John A. Macdonald building his railroad in the 19th century, and I think that it has to be drawn to the attention of a public that is desperate and thirsty and wanting for a solution to a problem it neither understands nor can attempt to grasp on a day-to-day basis.

I think it is magnificent that all the radio stations want to find out from people what is the matter with Canada. It's too bad it wasn't done a decade ago. Maybe we wouldn't be in the trouble. I think it is magnificent that the television networks, the communication networks of this country, want to find out what is the matter: Why don't you want to be part of Canada?

Again, a decade ago, we mightn't have been in this position. I think it is remarkable that newspapers are all of a sudden hiring people from the province of Quebec and giving them a full page of print. I think that's really remarkable. A year ago, you had a little local scandal municipally and you got a paragraph; something big—three paragraphs. Now you get a whole page. Ten years ago, it might have meant something.

I think now is the time that we, as the foremost political institution of this province, underscore and underline and applaud the leadership and the statesmanship of the

Premier of this province and his approach to the problem, because alone in Canada he is the realistic, he is the practical, and he has the concrete answer.

I want to turn to other parts of the Speech from the Throne, particularly one of those that concerns me a very great deal and it reflects upon the remarks that I have made in the past few minutes, and that is the fundamental underscoring of the fact that whatever the problem is in Canada today, it has an economic basis. I realize there are those in the House who can say from their textbooks that Karl Marx—

An hon. member: Is alive and well.

Mr. Drea: —said everything was economic. I don't believe that and neither do they.

One of the difficulties is that when we talk about a new and a different concept of economic equality for all Canadians, regardless of the accident of birth or where they live and whether they have raw materials or they don't, I really think the first thing that people are going to say is "How about an example?" I think in this province, because of its very diverse nature, its very immense mileage, its particular difficulty from time to time in achieving an economic system of fair play for regions that have been at one time endowed with natural resources and now, for one reason or another, are not, quite frankly, we have to set the example. In the vernacular, Mr. Speaker, let me put it this way: If you're going to tell me what to do, put your money where your mouth is.

In this province, we have pretty generally been blessed by an equality of opportunity. Sir, I say to you that some years ago we achieved equality of educational opportunity. You were in this chamber then. We put up the county school boards, the composite schools, so that the ability to achieve an education was not by accident of birth; one had the opportunity. We have gone further. We have tried to achieve, with regional governments and a number of other introductions, an equality of opportunities, so that because you were born in Winisk didn't necessarily mean that you were going to be a second-class citizen only because the facilities weren't around, that the whole world didn't revolve around Toronto, Hamilton, Kitchener and a couple of other places. With all due respect, I think and I hope it is appreciated that while we haven't achieved that, at least we are on the road toward achieving it in our lifetime, which I think is a remarkable accomplishment.

Today, when we look at the economic disparities of this country, I don't think we can look at them just in terms of provinces. I think we have to look at them in terms of municipalities. The very same things that have bred the cancer of separatism, that have bred the tremendous distrust of the rest of this country in the province of Quebec, are lying fallow in our own municipalities. We're at the position where the municipalities, and by municipalities I take in the school boards, are three things. One, they are the last remnant in the 20th century of the master and servant relationship, and we, in this House, are the masters and they are the servants. Two, they cannot even attempt to achieve control of their own economic destiny.

It may very well be that in the province, through an Edmonton commitment, through the PMLC, through the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, papers are sent out. We're very good at this. We can do it for six months or four years, but the people in municipalities are not in control of their own destiny. They are in the position of the only person who has not survived the 19th century and that is the servant. They are still there with a hand out. With all due respect to the provincial Treasurer, when he says, "I have honoured the Edmonton commitment but there is a limit this year," and he puts a number on it, I will suggest to you, sir, that I feel for the municipality, because I don't know if the particular number that he has put on it is the accurate one. I don't dispute that, in good intent, he is carrying on with that, but I wonder about the economics of it.

Mr. Warner: Scarborough got less money last year.

Mr. Drea: Not because of me, my friend; you got elected.

Mr. Warner: Scarborough got less money from the province.

[5:15]

Mr. Drea: I am not in a position to question the very abstract formulas, and many of them are several pages long, about how grants are done. I would say, in principle, that I like the fact that there is a formula by which grants are done because it takes away the political clout and makes it a matter of right. I like that in principle. When it comes down to the particular municipality, I have some concern, and I say that in terms of the principle and what have you, I agree the province should set down some formulas. We don't want political clout. We don't want

somebody coming in and saying, "He got a little bit more this year. He didn't do it this way; he got a little bit less." We don't want this.

Ms. Bryden: The Treasurer picks a number.

Mr. Drea: But I can't understand. I know of almost no one—and I am sure there are some who have spent considerable time trying to figure out these formulas—who really realizes what they mean.

Mr. McClellan: The Treasurer—

Mr. Drea: I think the time has come, and bearing in mind my past remarks, that we have to look at the particular disruption of the Canadian dream in terms of economics because we are in the latter part of the 20th century, and economics are what is going to determine. I think in the midst of adversity—and the adversity is that the Canadian fabric is being disrupted or threatened to be disrupted—we have a marvellous opportunity for the first time to really get down to some of the economic basics of this country.

I respect The British North America Act and the people who wrote it. It has lasted for virtually 100 years. When we in this Legislature are talking about legislation that will deal for 10 or 15 years without monumental changes and we consider that an achievement, and we do, we must realize that the people who drafted that legislation that has lasted 100 years—the people who wrote it and the people who thought about it—really knew a century ago what they were doing.

We have this marvellous opportunity now. The province of Quebec wants constitutional changes at least as a minimum. Well then by all means.

Sir, I recognize you in the chair and I know you are concerned about the repatriation of the Canadian constitution and the BNA Act. Let's get it repatriated back into this country. Let us sit down as 10 provinces and a federal government and let's really look at it in the light of 1967.

One of the things that we have to do is give a new deal to the municipalities.

Mr. Makarchuk: It is 10 years—

Mr. Drea: The day of the property tax being the only real basis where a municipality or a school board—and when I talk about a municipality, I am talking about a school—this is the only real way in which they can—

Mr. Conway: How do you repatriate what you never had in the first place?

Mr. Drea: —not only raise money but have control of their own destiny. It is the most regressive tax that man ever devised. Sales tax is minor in comparison to property tax.

Ms. Bryden: Why don't you tell your boss?

Mr. Warner: Are you looking for a seat over here?

Mr. Drea: We're not talking about my boss; we're talking about a constitution in this country—

Mr. Makarchuk: I thought you were talking about taxes.

Mr. Drea: Where? The municipality is a creature of the province. It is precluded from this, from that and the other thing. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that since we are going to have to look at that entire constitution in this country as a method of saving the Canadian dream, that we now get down to basics so that when we look at it, we start looking at municipalities and we start working out a new deal. Because I suggest to you if we don't—

Mr. McClellan: Start that right now.

Mr. Drea: —the separatism of Quebec is going to be a minor matter compared to the separatism of the municipalities in the future.

Mr. Conway: How do you repatriate what you never had in the first place? How do you repatriate what you didn't patriate?

Mr. Drea: I am not going to be provoked. He's yours. You elected him, you sit with him. He's yours, he's not mine.

Mr. Acting Speaker: I would appreciate that you would understand my objectivity at the present moment. He's not mine, nor do I wish him.

An hon. member: Who'd want him?

Mr. Conway: It is an Irish conspiracy.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Surely, we don't want the Speaker.

Mr. Drea: I think we are at a time in this country, and I think all of us agree, when somebody can wave a flag or somebody can say this or somebody can say that, but really if we want a Canada it is going to be a Canada of equal opportunity. It is going to be or there's not going to be one. I suggest to you in this province, since we are leading

the charge, that Ontario has to be a place where, regardless of accident—

Mr. Makarchuk: Give everybody a tax exemption, not only Ronto.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I am always concerned about the Marxist progressive leftist view. I have just heard it.

Mr. Samis: There's this and there's that.

Mr. Conway: Irish madness.

Mr. Drea: I notice the member doesn't deny his affinities.

Mr. Warner: Here comes the innuendo. You're good at it.

Mr. Conway: February 2, Frank.

Mr. Drea: February what?

Mr. Conway: February 2, your big day.

Mr. Drea: One of the concerns that I have in the municipal field is that I really think we're two or three annual or semi-annual tax raises away from the day of decision for a great many senior citizens. I don't think it really matters where they live. I think the same thing is applicable to the smaller community as it is to the very large one. If we suppose hypothetically, and I have to take the word of the provincial Treasurer—

Mr. McClellan: No you don't, Frank.

Mr. Drea: —that a uniform method of assessment will be in by next year—and I know the man. I know Mr. Blair. I know the man who looked at it, I know him very well. I know Mr. Blair and he is a man of method and of fairness—I don't think, Mr. Speaker, we are more than 1980 or 1981 away from the day of decision for a great many people in this province.

Mr. Breithaupt: Or 1984 I would think.

Mr. Drea: We are in an aging society in this province. Because of immigration we are not probably pressed as much as other jurisdictions are. What I call the day of decision, sir, is the day when older people—and we have to recognize there is an older life span, it is going to go on, and they are upon fixed incomes. No matter what government does, because in the end your pension is controlled by government, whether it's your private pension or whether you get it through the Canada Pension or you play with us and you get GAINS or what have you, it is the government of the day that determines the

amount of that fixed income, notwithstanding the government of the day also controls the monetary supply.

The government of the day, for better or for worse, can determine whether there will be inflation, whether there will be this. I don't think we're much more than four or five years away from that day of decision by senior citizens. I, frankly, don't think they can continue on.

I say this in all honesty. I used to say and I used to parrot the government line—I'm as good as anybody else—I used to say we have this rebate thing, we have this thing, we have that thing. In the last six or seven months I have lain awake many a night. I'm sorry. I just don't believe in it any more.

Mr. McClellan: Why don't you tell—

Mr. Warner: Are you going to resign?

Mr. Drea: I say that notwithstanding the best intentions of government. I just don't think that we can provide a formula of rebates based upon income or based upon means that will take into account the economic situation, not only in this country but in the world, and inflation in particular. For heaven's sake, the most sophisticated investors in this country are the people in the stock market. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, they were all told last Wednesday, as a day of duty, to get into the market to show it will go up. The market was awful. The market was even awful today. As you know, sir, by law I am precluded from giving anything other than an objective review of the market. If the sophisticated investor, the educated person, spends eight, nine or 10 hours a day in trying to figure out where his money is going—

Mr. Warner: What happened to the senior citizens?

Mr. Drea: —then how can we expect an ever-growing part of our population who don't have that opportunity to try to play games? And even if they did, even if they were successful, what is a two per cent gain on an income on \$200 a month? It doesn't matter at all.

Mr. Conway: To be sure.

Mr. Drea: I suggest that since we are looking realistically—and hopefully we are realistic—at the economic future of this country, that we don't stop with the provinces and that we start looking inward. As an example, in this province—and we deserved it—this Throne Speech issued the call for an eco-

nomic look at the constitution. By example, let's take a look inwardly: let's look at the municipalities; let's look at the property tax.

I suggest that the time has come when the property tax is redundant for both municipal and school board purposes. It may very well be, if we divorce one from the other that the property tax may provide the basis for the other.

Mr. Warner: That's heresy. The Treasurer will never talk to you again.

Mr. Drea: I say to my friend from Scarborough-Ellesmere that the Treasurer will call me Frank in the morning and he will call me Frank tomorrow—

Mr. Warner: He may also tell you goodbye!

Mr. Drea: He will talk to me. And so will some of the NDP's lefty economists, because I'm now talking about some of the things that they reject as being too right-wing. They'll all talk to me.

We have to come down to basics. I reiterate that the property tax is the most regressive, the most unfair, the most inflexible—

Mr. Makarchuk: That's what you said five minutes ago.

Mr. Warner: The Treasurer doesn't say that.

Mr. Haggerty: They want to tax the schools.

Mr. Breithaupt: And the churches and golf courses.

Mr. Drea: No applause from the Liberal benches? They all believe that, too; come on, it's motherhood. Come on, you believe it; it's motherhood, too.

Mr. Haggerty: They want to tax all the schools.

Mr. Drea: No, that's not true. We are talking about a regressive, unfair and, above all, I don't care if taxes are regressive or unfair; I want to know how much yield they make. I'm a nosy enforcer. The yield is going down year by year. We all know this. Everybody in here knows this.

Mr. Breithaupt: If you get more out of it, it would be all right.

Mr. Drea: With all due respect, sir, we cannot change that because of The British North America Act.

Mr. Breithaupt: We can so; we sure can.

Mr. Warner: You can tell the Treasurer.

Mr. Drea: The municipality is a creature of the province—

Mr. Makarchuk: Why don't you give them a couple of points of the income tax?

Mr. Drea: That's exactly what I'm coming up to, but I think we have to do it in the constitution. I think we have to sit down, not only as 10 provinces but as municipalities. As a matter of fact, I am going to suggest that when we sit down to really look at equality of economic opportunity in this country, we can't stop at 10 provinces. Even if we could achieve that to the point where somebody in a small town in northern New Brunswick has the same economic opportunity as someone in Toronto, Calgary or Vancouver, we would be achieving miracles, but I don't think it would save this country. What we have to do province by province is to sit down and give the municipality—and that includes the school board—a new opportunity to finance the revolution of rising expectations.

[5:30]

Mr. Martel: Tell that to the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Drea: I'll wipe the smirk off your face.

Mr. Makarchuk: Watch your language.

Mr. Drea: The fact is that a great number of municipal employees now have the right to belong to a union, have the right not to be fired and have the right to seniority and a great number of other things. These are rising costs, and I think we have to face that. I'm sure as a Brantford alderman, the member for Brantford has faced that.

Mr. Conway: But he never faced you before.

Mr. Drea: Those are the economic facts. They are grim but they are there and they are our realities of life. I suggest the time has come when we are talking about economic fair play for this country, which is the only way we will destroy the romantics of separatism, and the example has to start at home.

An hon. member: The way we have taught French is not a fair deal.

Mr. Drea: The Premier of this province in the Throne Speech has issued the call. We started it. It is above and beyond everything else. The onus is upon us.

Mr. Warner: Have another drink of water.

Mr. Drea: When we go down, talk to the people in Quebec and do the Robarts thing,—he was 10 years ahead of his time—we're going to go down and win the hearts and souls. I can just see me, with all due respect, walking into Rouyn, Quebec. I know Rouyn. I'm sure the member for Sudbury East is going to know what I'm going to talk about.

Mr. Conway: Walking in.

Mr. Drea: I can walk into Rouyn, Quebec, and I can tell them their mines are gone, that this is gone, that that's gone, and that they're going to have to export their children. I can tell them that I'm a Canadian. "I want to win your mind and your soul." I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be lucky to get out of that town alive.

Mr. Conway: You would know about it.

Mr. Warner: We would be lucky if you didn't.

Mr. Drea: It's great for all the fat cats down in Toronto to say, "Let's go down and tell them they're all Canadians." Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you that there are two very famous people. One was a saint and one was the head of the Salvation Army. One was Saint Francis of Assisi and one was General William Booth who started the Salvation Army. They both agreed on one thing: It's pretty useless to try to save somebody's soul until you feed him. If they're starving to death they're not very, very receptive to all kinds of ideas.

Mr. Warner: Let's try feeding you first.

Mr. Drea: Feed them. After you have them fed, then let's get into the philosophical discourse. That is what this Throne Speech does. I am asking that it goes further.

Mr. Breithaupt: Tell that to the unemployed.

Mr. Samis: Tell us about unemployment.

Mr. Conway: A chicken in every pot.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Everybody will have a chance to make his contribution.

Mr. Drea: I hope, Mr. Speaker, you will be as firm with the literate over there as the Acting Speaker was with me. I emphasize the literate.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Intellect.

Mr. Drea: The literate. That was aimed at you.

Mr. Martel: I was saying there is Mr. Intellect, the whiz kid. I shouldn't have distracted you.

Mr. Warner: Irish madness.

Mr. Breithaupt: He is moving right along.

Mr. Drea: I have talked about—

Mr. Conway: This and that.

Mr. Drea: —basically two things today. I have talked about the need for an economic realization of fairness, the ability of an economic opportunity with fair play for everybody across Canada. I think we all agree with that—at least I hope we do. By the same token, I have turned inwardly, which the Throne Speech did not do, upon the province of Ontario. I don't think one can go to people and say, "Here is a new idea. Here's how we can save," unless one is prepared to answer the question and the operative part is within one's control. I think the operative part is. We have to turn inwardly in this province. We really have to achieve economic fairness and economic opportunity. And within this province, Mr. Speaker, it is no longer a matter of geography. It is a matter of municipality.

I suggest to you, sir, that the time has come, if Ontario really wants to do something about preserving the Canadian dream that we now set the example, we look inwardly upon ourselves. As much as it is possible within our own control we promote what we can do for the municipalities and the school boards. If it is beyond our control, instead of passing the buck we turn it over to Ottawa with the call that if you want a Canada, this is the start of the price that we are all going to have to pay.

I know it means belt tightening. I am a little bit tired of the fat cats telling everybody: "Tighten your belts."

Mr. Conway: Tighten up, Frank.

Mr. Drea: Every time I look at one of the fat cats saying we have to sacrifice on behalf of this or on behalf of that, the guy has got a vest out this high and he has got a glass in his hand.

Mr. Conway: We are all tight enough, Frank.

Mr. Drea: I will tell you I know how much the vest cost and I know how much the glass in the hand cost. I will tell you

something else, Mr. Speaker, the working man and the working woman, when they look at that, they just turn their backs. If we are going to do something then it means we are all going to have to tighten our belts, whether it is collectively or individually. The start of it is in this province; that we tighten the belt provincially and we give the municipalities a new deal, because when somebody from another province asks us: "How is this equality of economic opportunity going to work?" we don't say: "We have a report," we say: "We have done it and here is what has happened in one year."

Mr. Breithaupt: We will see what the budget says.

Mr. Acting Speaker: I believe the member for Beaches-Woodbine is next on the list.

Ms. Bryden: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't know whether I was going to have any time left before the supper hour, but there is a little.

The Throne Speech delivered by Her Honour last week might be described as motherhood times 60, because there are 60 areas touched on, but in most cases the proposals for action are simply vague statements of good intentions and perhaps death-bed repentances. It is a speech which is long on rhetoric but short on reality. As a plan of action to meet Ontario's most pressing problems of unemployment, economic slowdown and ongoing fiscal mismanagement, it is like a drunk promising to espouse sobriety for the fourth time around.

One of the areas where some action is promised is that of youth unemployment. Apparently the government has just discovered this problem in our midst. What was it doing in 1976 when the unemployment rate for young persons was almost 2.6 times as great as for the work force over 25? What was it doing in 1975 when the same rate prevailed?

In February 1977, the latest date for which we have figures, there were 143,000 persons under 25 unemployed in Ontario. They constituted almost one half of the total of 316,000 unemployed. Their unemployment rate was about 14.8 per cent compared to eight per cent for the rest of the work force, or for the work force as a whole I should say.

But this does not give us the full picture. There are the hidden unemployed. Many are not counted because they have given up looking for jobs as a result of discouragement. Others are not counted because they live in remote areas, or are treaty Indians or sea-

sonal workers in the off-season, in areas where there are no alternatives. Others are under-employed, with only part-time jobs or in jobs where their capabilities are not being used. Further, the figures do not include the handicapped and the disadvantaged who need special programmes to get them into the labour market. What's obvious from the statistics we do have, Mr. Speaker, is that young people in Ontario are carrying an excessive burden in the unemployment picture.

But statistics are cold and lifeless comparisons. I don't see statistics in my constituency office, I see the real thing; the young and desperate men and women who want any sort of job that will give them a reasonable income, a chance at some promotion and a feeling of contributing to society. The 143,000 young persons out of work in February are 143,000 personal tragedies; and the failure of this government to manage the economy and to give leadership in economic development and in job creation is largely responsible for these tragedies.

Mr. Speaker, one of the favourite targets of after-dinner speakers and editorial writers today is waste in government spending. They have plenty of examples from the Conservative government of this province, like the \$9 million computer system for the community colleges which was scrapped; or the \$30 million to \$50 million spent on land for abandoned new town projects.

There is another form of waste that should make the headlines but doesn't. It is the waste of human beings. Too many young people, deprived of access to a career, are becoming disillusioned and disaffected members of society. If their only employment is part-time or dead-end jobs between periods of idleness, they will not develop good work habits, they will not feel they are part of society. If they have no opportunity to learn useful skills on the job, their potential will not be realized.

What's more, Mr. Speaker, this waste is costing all of us a great deal of money. Ed Broadbent, the NDP federal leader, estimated that the current unemployment of close to a million person in Canada is costing us \$6 billion to \$7 billion in lost production of goods and services. It also means we are paying some \$2 billion a year in unemployment insurance and welfare payments, and at all levels of government we are losing hundreds of millions in tax revenue which would otherwise be paid by Canadians if they had jobs. The result is that the rest of us have to pay more taxes or do without necessary government services.

But beyond the economic costs are the uncountable social costs represented by this under-used human resource. There are the stunted careers, the ill-health, the mental deterioration, the delay in family formation, the search for escapes from discouragement and rejection.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Council on Social Development sponsored a seminar on the issue of youth and employment. Shortly after, the council's board of governors issued a statement which highlights the seriousness of the problem. It said: "The Canadian Council on Social Development is greatly concerned about the deteriorating position of young people in relation to employment opportunities. It deplores the haphazard manner in which federal, provincial and local levels of government intervene with the problem and the prevailing public attitude, which ranges from one of indifference and apathy to blaming youth themselves.

"The council recognizes that the youth employment issue is part of a larger problem of unemployment and under-employment, and cannot be treated in complete isolation. Nevertheless, its severity and chronic nature, as well as long-term ill effects if left unattended, make it economically, politically and socially explosive."

[5:45]

I ask, why hasn't the government been addressing itself to this very serious problem? Has it bought the myth that the young people don't want to work? Recent surveys show that the vast majority do want jobs. I quote from a study by the Department of Manpower and Immigration called *Canadian Work Values*, published in 1975. It said:

"A further survey question revealed that approximately 90 per cent of all males above 20 years of age would prefer full-time to part-time employment or to being out of the labour force. Part-time employment had a somewhat greater appeal to female respondents, particularly during the child-bearing years"; they also preferred jobs to being out of work.

But these young people want career jobs, not dead-end jobs. Certainly the ones who come into my constituency office for advice—

Mr. Martel: A LIP project.

Mr. Conway: Tell me, has Wardell been in lately?

Ms. Bryden: He is unemployed at the moment, I believe.

Mr. Conway: We will have to keep him that way.

Ms. Bryden: Certainly the ones who come into my constituency office want to work; and most of them are prepared to start at anything. But the number of jobs available is abysmally short.

For example, in February of this year there were only 37,300 jobs available for the close to one million unemployed, less than four per cent. The latest figure for Ontario covers the fourth quarter of 1976. At that time there were only 12,300 job vacancies. Today there are 143,000 young people looking for jobs.

Mr. Martel: Darcy says it is an honest budget, though, federally.

Ms. Bryden: Of those 12,300 jobs, very few are tailored to the inexperienced young people coming out of schools and colleges.

Perhaps the government thinks that youth unemployment is a temporary phenomenon which will go away, a demographic quirk from war-baby booms. But forecasts of young people in the labour force show that while the 14-to-19 age group is declining, the 20-to-24 age group will continue growing in the 1980s.

Perhaps the government thinks that the unemployed young people are mainly students who can't find part-time or summer jobs, and that that is the only problem. But a study by the Economic Council of Canada in 1976 showed that very few of the pool of unemployed young people were students looking for jobs. In fact, if you excluded the students from the unemployment rate, the rate would go up by two points in some months.

What has the government done about this very serious problem? Well, it did produce a summer employment programme for students in recent years, producing from 7,500 to 10,000 jobs. But over 100,000 applications were received in the last two years.

It has an industrial training branch which supervises apprenticeship and industrial training programmes. But the number of places available is far below the number of applicants. For example, the joint apprenticeship council in the electrical industry told me last fall that they were still absorbing the 1974-75 applicants who had qualified and had not started to place the 1976 applicants.

The government has a strange programme called the Ontario Career Action programme, otherwise known as OCAP, which is supposed

to give young people a chance to acquire clerical experience so that they can presumably have a better chance at applying for clerical jobs. But to me it looks rather like a method of obtaining cheap labour for the Ontario government. It places young people in clerical jobs in the Ontario government at about \$100 a week for a maximum of 52 weeks. They have no opportunity to get a foot on the civil service ladder, or even to enjoy any of the rights and benefits of a civil servant.

Mr. Speaker, if there is work to be done in the Ontario government, it should be done by persons who are paid a living wage and are given a chance to enjoy the same benefits and the same right to move up the career ladder in the same way as those beside whom they work. Second-class citizens in the public service are not the mark of a fair employer.

This government looks after people at the top, like Mr. Fleck, but it sweats those at the bottom along with the contract employees whom it is using to fill job needs these days, instead of adding to the civil service complement, in order to keep up its smoke-screen and delude the public into believing that it has a freeze on civil service growth.

The contract employees are among the most exploited; they receive almost no benefits and work side by side with civil servants who are receiving pensions and other benefits. They are often paid less than the people who are doing the same work beside them.

Mr. Conway: Sounds like the members of the Legislature.

Ms. Bryden: I counted the number of jobs in the Experience '77 booklet put out by the Youth Secretariat on summer employment, and I found that at least half of them started at the bare minimum wage.

An hon. member: Shame.

Ms. Bryden: But today there is a rising call for a lower minimum wage for young people from some quarters, and the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Bennett) seems to be listening to it.

Interjections.

Ms. Bryden: The critics point to high unemployment rates existing among young men and women in provinces where the minimum wage is \$3 an hour compared to our \$2.65 an hour. But the idea of a cheap minimum wage for the young would just encourage employers to replace older workers with younger workers. It was George Meany of

the AFL-CIO who said that this would mean laying off the father to hire the son. It would be a subsidy to employers and there's no proof it would create any new jobs. It would only mean an across-the-board wage cut for thousands.

Mr. Speaker, this government's past record in the development of jobs for young persons is abysmal. Can we expect anything more in 1977 or are the words in the Throne Speech simply empty rhetoric?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: More.

Mr. Martel: More empty rhetoric.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: No, more jobs.

Mr. Martel: I'm glad you said that, George.

Interjections.

Mr. Makarchuk: Where's the legislation?

Ms. Bryden: What should the government be doing about this serious problem of youth unemployment? Well, first, in my opinion, it should make a commitment to effect a progressive reduction in the youth unemployment rate over the next few years. We all know, of course, that an expanding economy is the first prerequisite for opening up job opportunities to the unemployed of all ages. But planning for full employment and for the development of new industries, both secondary and tertiary, is not one of the bases touched by this government in the Throne Speech. That's because they don't believe in planning and they don't have a commitment to full employment. They prefer chaos to co-ordination. They prefer laissez-faire to leadership. It's a doctrinaire approach that hasn't worked in the past.

Professor Lester Thurow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said in a recent article in *Newsweek*, I quote: "Real per capita growth since the advent of government intervention has been more than twice as high as it was in the days when government did not intervene or have social welfare programmes."

What else must the government do? I think it must face the fact that young people do need an assist to get on to the career ladder. Companies and governments must open their doors to them and give them a chance. Incentives may be necessary to persuade employers to hire inexperienced people and to provide training on the job.

In addition, opportunities for training and upgrading must be increased and student aid must be expanded to allow young people to obtain this training. It's a myth that our

young people are over-educated. Of the 143,000 young persons unemployed in February, 1977, only 20,000 had any post-secondary education. Unless we want to just sell off our resources to the world, we have to increase our productivity, we have to specialize, we have to do research to meet world competition. That's going to need educated people.

We're going to need more than handouts to industry. We're going to need planning. We're going to need joint public-private action. We're going to have to bring education and work experience together in shared-time programmes which are more than cheap labour schemes. Apprenticeship and on-the-job training in additional fields might ensure that we have qualified TV repairman at least and a more skilled and productive labour force.

Perhaps we should involve the young people in planning these changes. No unemployed young persons in the work force were at the recent Partnership for Prosperity conference which was called by the government to plan for the future development of this province's economy. Besides that, the conference spent its time looking at 1980 rather than at the current 143,000 young people out of work.

In addition, of course, we should consider special programmes for handicapped and disadvantaged youth. The rehabilitation branch of the Ministry of Community and Social Services does good work but only scratches the surface. Programmes to make the handicapped and disadvantaged self-supporting will pay for themselves in the long run.

Young people don't want sympathy or exhortations. They simply want jobs and, right now, they aren't interested in long-term solutions. They want action today. They want to see new jobs going up on the boards in the Manpower offices.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps if the hon. member is going to go into a new area this might be an appropriate time to adjourn the debate.

Ms. Bryden: I have about three minutes more, but if you like I'll adjourn.

Mr. Conway: I grant it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed?

Mr. Conway: Agreed.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, perhaps we can take a look at the Manitoba government's employment package. The province, in 1976, spent about \$45 million to \$50 million on

direct job creation. It included accelerated capital works and a provincial employment programme which funds municipalities, schools, co-operatives, local groups, farms and so forth for construction-oriented projects. It included special loans to municipalities and labour forgiveness of 50 per cent in the summer and 100 per cent in the winter. It included a Manpower corps in the north, and Manpower counselling and working with the private sector to develop jobs and career opportunities for the target groups.

A similar effort in Ontario would cost in the neighbourhood of \$300 million to \$400 million. The \$160 million already given to industry in the sales tax exemption would be a start for this kind of money, for a job-creation programme. Other tax breaks for industry could be withdrawn and any hand-outs which the provincial Treasurer is planning in his new budget could be diverted to this kind of a constructive attack on the unemployment problem.

There is lots of work needed in this province. We could provide funds for reforesta-

tion, for home insulation, for energy conservation, for recycling, for anti-pollution programmes. We could provide funds for rehabilitation of senior citizens homes and to increase the middle-income group's opportunity to improve its homes.

I hope we will see some sort of constructive suggestions adopted in the budget and the beginning of an action programme to make jobs available to the young people of this province. I hope they won't have to take Prime Minister Trudeau's advice and go south in pursuit of employment.

An hon. member: Perhaps we should send Pierre south; far south.

Mr. Speaker: We need someone to adjourn the debate. I am not sure who is next on the list. Mr. Conway is the next speaker.

On motion by Mr. Conway, the debate was adjourned.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Kerr, the House adjourned at 6 p.m.

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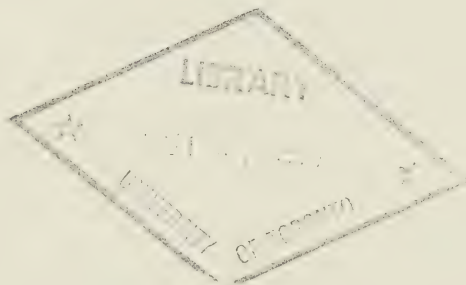


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Fourth Session, 30th Parliament

Thursday, April 7, 1977

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1977

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

ENERGY MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I represented Ontario at the energy ministers' conference in Ottawa. I stated Ontario's position in the manner that I outlined in the Legislature last week. I made it very clear that Ontario would not support any increase in the price of crude oil and natural gas this year.

Mr. S. Smith: What did Lougheed say?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I did not gain the support of the government of Canada and the producing provinces. However, I am happy to report that I was supported by almost half of the consumers of Canada who are represented by all three of the political parties. The Ontario position was strongly supported by Manitoba and Nova Scotia.

The question of price was not resolved. It was agreed that all provinces would prepare written suggestions dealing with price and pricing mechanisms. I made it clear that Ontario would not support any price increase this year.

Mr. S. Smith: And did Lougheed threaten to keep it in the ground?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The energy ministers will meet again within four weeks for further discussion.

RAILWAY PASSENGER SERVICE

Hon. Mr. Snow: On behalf of myself and the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier), I would like to state this government's position with regard to the Canadian Transport Commission's decision to discontinue rail passenger service between Thunder Bay and Winnipeg and between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie. This discontinuation has

been ordered by the CTC effective May 24, 1977.

Mr. Kerrio: How about using Greyhound out there?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Snow: To refresh the members' memory on the background of the proposed discontinuation of this rail service, let me recap briefly.

In January 1976 the Hon. Otto Lang, federal Minister of Transport Canada, announced a programme to rationalize rail passenger services in Canada.

This rationalization process was to have included CTC hearings and subsequent reviews of each of the federally subsidized services in Canada. The way it was explained to us, the objective of these exercises was to reduce the growing subsidies being poured into rail passenger services.

Last week, on Monday, March 21—I guess that's two weeks ago—the CTC announced its decision regarding 11 of these services. Two of these were in Ontario. One is the CP service from Sudbury to Sault Ste. Marie and the other the CN service from Thunder Bay north via Fort Frances to Winnipeg. Both are to be discontinued May 24, 1977.

At this point, I should tell you that the Ontario government was present at both the hearings concerning the services to be affected in the north.

Our position on the Sudbury-Sault Ste. Marie service was that the CTC should completely satisfy itself that the bus service along the corridor be adequate to handle all existing rail traffic plus present and future anticipated bus traffic.

The decision signifies, I believe, Mr. Speaker, the CTC has accepted the adequacy of the bus service in this corridor.

At the Thunder Bay-Winnipeg hearing, we stressed Mr. Lang's directive to the CTC which said: "Rail passenger service should not be abandoned in any case where no other commercial service exists."

I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that there are a number of small communities

in this corridor and while they have road access as well as rail, they do not have bus connections. And when you add to the fact that there are a number of summer camps and resorts along the line such as Owakonze—I don't know whether I said that right. Perhaps the hon. member for Rainy River could tell me—

Mr. Stokes: Owakonze.

Mr. Reid: Owakonze—the jewel of the north.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Oh, forget it—as well as several year-round residents at various points, it becomes clear to us, at least, that these people rely on rail for connections to the outside world. Yet the CTC order, in effect, cuts them off.

Expressed in other words, the CTC has completely ignored Mr. Lang's policy directive to provide public service to those places without alternative commercial services.

Such communities may seem comparatively small to some people but this government will continue to support them until we have a concrete assurance that their problems have been solved in the area of transportation services.

I can tell this House candidly that until the very day that these two decisions were announced, the federal government has not reacted to our offer made during the hearings to sit down and discuss alternative solutions that must be provided to these communities in case of abandonment.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Northern Affairs and I feel that the needs of these communities must be assessed further and a mutually acceptable solution reached. In order to allow the federal government and my officials enough time to properly assess these needs and find solutions, Mr. Bernier and I will be requesting the CTC to delay the termination of this service until at least September 30, 1977.

To be sure, there has been one encouraging note. Since the CTC's announcement there has been some indication that the federal people are ready to talk about alternatives. My staff and staff members of the Ministry of Northern Affairs are now following this up. When these discussions have taken place, we will be in a better position to determine any further action that may be necessary.

MINISTRY OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time later today, the House leader

will introduce, on my behalf, legislation to establish a Ministry of Northern Affairs. The minister and deputy minister are in Sault Ste. Marie on government business at this moment.

This legislation represents a renewed commitment on the part of this government to overcome the obstacles of great distances, and relatively dispersed population, to provide comparable services and access to the people of northern Ontario. It is also a recognition of the wishes, which have been expressed by many people in the north, for a ministry which would have special responsibility for ensuring that the problems specific to the vast area of northern Ontario are considered when government decisions are made. The response—

Mr. S. Smith: What about a ministry of southern affairs?

An hon. member: He is being provocative.

Mr. Martel: Save your humour for the ball game.

Mr. S. Smith: Your establishment of this ministry is an admission that you have done nothing for the north; you treat it as a colony.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I heard from the leader of the third party that he wants a ministry of southern affairs. That's part of his new platform? Is that to include the Bahamas and all of those relevant areas, or what is it that he is interested in?

An hon. member: I'm available.

An hon. member: Are you going to the ball game today, Bill?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, I am going to the ball game today.

Mr. Deans: This is what is wrong with sitting in the morning.

Mr. Kerrio: I would like a couple in the reds.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I haven't got any more tickets. I am sorry.

Mr. Lewis: I have the money.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'm glad; I need it. Mr. Speaker, I am quite prepared to go on but there are a lot of questions being asked.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. Premier continue with his statement? Thank you.

Mr. MacDonald: It was the Premier who answered the interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The response from the north has been overwhelmingly positive since the government's intention was made known.

Mr. Breithaupt: They are desperate for anything.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Members will have a chance to vote against it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There will be a question period later. Order; order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Municipal councils, chambers of commerce and individual citizens in the north have expressed strong support for this recognition of the special status of northern Ontario.

The north comprises almost 90 per cent of the land area of this province. Its area would accommodate, for example, France and Germany, with room to spare. It is more than 1,000 miles from parts of northern Ontario to Queen's Park. In fact, Halifax is roughly the same distance from Toronto as some parts of northern Ontario.

Mr. Stokes: We have been telling you that for years.

Hon. Mr. Davis: As part of our commitment—we have been listening and we have been doing something about it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: In the member's riding.

Mr. Ruston: He is going to switch over, like Horner.

Mr. Martel: After 34 years.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let's get on with the business of the House. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: As part of our commitment to make government more accessible to the people of the north, the ministry will be establishing regional and district offices in both northeastern and northwestern Ontario, with an assistant deputy minister resident in each region.

Mr. Stokes: The northwestern office should be in Geraldton.

Mr. Warner: With Bernier as campaign manager.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The location—Mr. Speaker, I can't answer all of these questions.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the House will agree—the interjections are not assisting getting on with the business of the House. Will the Premier continue his statement; and please, wait for the question period?

Mr. Ruston: Get the big stick out.

Hon. Mr. Davis: This is a very non-provocative statement.

The location of these offices has been the subject of intense interest on the part of the communities of northern Ontario and briefs have been received from many municipal councils expressing support for the concept. These are being studied carefully and a decision on the location of regional and district offices will be made in the near future.

In order to improve community liaison, the 25 northern affairs offices now with the Ministry of Natural Resources will be transferred to this new ministry. With assistance from these local offices, and from the people and organizations of the north, a prime function of the regional assistant deputy ministers will be to identify problems and needs unique to these regions, and to assume a co-ordinating role in resolving them at the local level by bringing together the local interests and the provincial ministries concerned. To help achieve this goal, the assistant deputy ministers will chair the public service advisory boards in these areas, which bring together the regional directors from government ministries operating in the north.

[10:15]

The Ministry of Northern Affairs will take over responsibilities for community and regional priority projects and townsite development in the north, which were formerly the responsibility of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs. Northern Affairs will also assume responsibility for the northern Ontario resources transportation programme, the resource access roads, as well as the isolated communities assistance programme, formerly administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources. The establishment of priorities for the northern road construction programme will be transferred to Northern Affairs from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. On July 1 the ministry will assume responsibility for the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission, including northern and the telecommunications service.

Transportation and tourism go hand in hand and so the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission will become directly involved, along with the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, in promoting and planning new recreational attractions.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There will be time for questions in the question period.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Added impetus will be given to this effort by the delivery to the commission this spring of four modern unit trains. NorOntair, which the House knows, will also take delivery of a seventh aircraft. NorOntair, which is one of the government's initiatives of which I am especially proud, Mr. Speaker, has been expanded until it now serves Sudbury, Timmins, North Bay, Earlton, Kirkland Lake, Kapuskasing, Elliot Lake, Chapleau, the Sault, Wawa, Thunder Bay, Pickle Lake, Kenora, Dryden, Fort Frances and Atikokan.

These initiatives on the part of our government demonstrate that, even as it is determined to preserve the natural and recreational heritage of this vast region of Ontario, it is also determined that the people of the north will share in the mainstream of development of our province.

Mr. Laughren: Not with Leo Bernier. He is the wrong minister.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that all members of this House will join me in welcoming this legislation, and that, in the months ahead, they will demonstrate, in the Legislature and beyond—

Mr. Lewis: What do you mean “and beyond”? What is “and beyond”?

Hon. Mr. Davis: —the same spirit of co-operation in assisting the government in implementing our programmes for the north.

Mr. Laughren: Not with Leo Bernier there.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Deans: A point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if you would be good enough to provide for the Minister of Transportation and Communications a copy of page 14, item number 1, which states that two copies of each ministerial statement shall be delivered to the party leaders or their representatives at or before the time the statement is made in the House, in order that they could read it and understand it?

Mr. Speaker: I believe that's one statement to each party, is it not? Has that not been done?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, if that is the case I apologize, because I understood copies of the statement were delivered.

Mr. Speaker: Obviously there was a breakdown in communications.

Mr. S. Smith: And transportation.

Mr. Speaker: And transportation. Anyway that is the instruction, so the hon. minister could move to rectify it and provide the statement, it might be helpful, if that's possible.

Oral questions.

POWER STATION RELIABILITY

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Energy: Is there any special activity, inquiry, investigation that his ministry might now undertake to reduce the pattern of successive, serious, technical breakdowns associated with nuclear technology in the province of Ontario, the latest being the information about Nanticoke. Has the minister reached the point where he regards this—

Mr. Cassidy: Thermal stations.

Mr. Lewis: I'm sorry, thermal stations, the most recent being Nanticoke. Is he prepared to do something a little more urgent than the repair jobs which have characterized the activity in the past?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, the Nanticoke plant, as the Leader of the Opposition has stated, is not nuclear, it's coal-fired.

Mr. Lewis: I am sorry.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: As a matter of fact, to my knowledge any of the serious problems have been in the conventional part of the plants. The plants generally are all the same, whether they're nuclear-fuelled, whether they're coal- or oil-fired or gas. Three-quarters of that plant probably is of conventional design and they look very similar.

The problem, of course, in Nanticoke was announced on March 15 by Hydro in connection with the stresses in hangers—that's the principal problem there. I may say that was a design problem. It was thought that the design used there was an improvement. It was, I guess, virtually impossible to determine the various stresses on expansion

of the system as it heats up. That wasn't able to be calculated, and as a result it was discovered that with the heating up of the plant there was an unusual distribution of stress.

The hangers that were designed—and these are stainless steel hangers from two to four inches in diameter—were not adequate to support the system, which all hangs from the roof. It was a technical problem; it's being resolved by the manufacturer in terms of replacement of the rods and the support systems. So, I hardly think that would require any investigation. It's a technical problem; it's being resolved.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary: The minister will concede that these technical problems continue to emerge time and again. I wonder about the design specifications. I wonder about the whole process of the construction of these plants, and who pays ultimately for all of the changes which, in succession, proliferate. Is the cost to the manufacturer, or do we in the province of Ontario bear these costs?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I just make some general comments in terms of systems? As you know, Ontario is probably leading the world in many cases in regard to the generation of electricity. This latest plant at Nanticoke was conceived as an improvement, really, in terms of design. What you try to do is get the system a little smaller—you need less area; but there are some stresses that you really have to measure when it's in operation. In connection with these hangers: They had to design a special gauge that would measure the stress when the system was in operation and heat it to a very high temperature. That gauge has been put on the rods to determine what the stresses are, and improvements are being made.

But you learn—let's face it. If you're going to stick 100 per cent with what you have, you'll never make any improvement. I'm not trying to assess blame, or say it's a good thing or a bad thing. What I'm saying is that if you never do anything, you'll never make any mistakes, but you'll never make any improvements, either.

Mr. Breithaupt: The last cabinet shuffle proved that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Now the company is replacing these hangers and doing the necessary work, and I would assume that the company would bear the cost of that.

Mr. Deans: You assume? Don't you know?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Halton-Burlington with a supplementary.

Mr. Reed: I wonder if the minister would take steps to ensure that mechanical breakdowns of this nature are not used by Ontario Hydro as an excuse for the urgency for expansion of the system, as they seem to have done this past winter.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I don't think that's a correct observation. I was in Nanticoke earlier this week. I inspected that particular plant. I looked at the problems, and it was explained to me what had happened there. I can assure the member that it wasn't a question of deliberately shutting down a plant to generate concern for a lack of capacity in our system. It wasn't that at all—it's a legitimate design problem that has been discovered, and is now being rectified.

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary, the member for York South.

Mr. MacDonald: If the heat factor, combined with the tension, is what created this problem, what conceivable explanation is there for the fact that the design engineers would not have known in advance that that heat factor was going to be there? Is it a completely new product that they've never had any experience with—and heat?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, it's not a new product. The heat, of course, is there in any plant—there are similar temperatures. The problem, as I understand it, was that the design of these particular boilers was such that it was a matter of trying to develop more compact units. The whole system is suspended; because of expansion in operation, rather than push up this immense amount of equipment, it's suspended from the roof. With a change in design of the size of the unit, it was a question of the tensile strength of the hangers and the placement of those particular hangers. This was the new element in terms of this particular manufacturer.

I was told and believe that it's virtually impossible, because there are hundreds of these rods, to calculate the stresses that are generated unless it's in operation because of the expansion of the entire system.

Mr. Deans: I just don't believe that.

Mr. Lewis: I don't believe it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You don't have to believe it. I'm not an engineer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: You are telling me that modern technology is trial and error.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I'm not an engineer. You may have more knowledge than one.

Mr. Foulds: Certainly more than you.

Mr. Deans: This is nonsense.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think a very brief question was asked and I would hope that the answer would be brief. If it requires a long, detailed explanation I think it should be tabled, because we've spent almost eight minutes in the House here now.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: A final supplementary.

Mr. G. I. Miller: I think the minister is correct with his assessment of the plant at Nanticoke because it is a new system. The simple question is was it under warranty or wasn't it? Should it not be the responsibility of the manufacturers to guarantee that it will work with the amount of money that's been involved in this particular plant?

Mr. Deans: It is inadequate engineering.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: At the risk of repetition, I would assume that the manufacturer has acknowledged responsibility insofar as—

Mr. Lewis: What do you mean, assume?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —the manufacturer is doing the necessary rectification work or design.

Mr. Lewis: Don't you know? Who designed it?

HALTON LANDFILL SITE

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food: How will his food land guidelines apply in the visible and specific case of site F, the controversial landfill site in Halton region, 500 acres of class 1 agricultural land, when there are a great many other sites which might be chosen? How will his guidelines apply to the preservation of that piece of agricultural land?

Hon. W. Newman: As the Leader of the Opposition knows, there will be an Environmental Assessment Board hearing on that particular site. Now that they have decided on it, there will be a hearing. Our people will be called forward at that time to give the appropriate evidence before that hear-

ing. I've already had the same question asked by many people who live in the area and I've pointed out that we will be pointing out how our guidelines would be effective in that area.

Mr. MacDonald: Supplementary: If the ministry people come forward and make advice and then the provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) cancels it out so that he reduces the guidelines to nothing, what about it?

Hon. W. Newman: We do have a few independent boards around.

An hon. member: Very few.

Hon. W. Newman: The Environmental Assessment Board will be sitting on this hearing and will be hearing all the evidence from all sides regarding the site. They will be making their decision and recommendation to the Ministry of the Environment.

Mr. Reed: Could the minister tell us exactly how the green paper applies to this situation?

Hon. W. Newman: I would suggest that the member read the guidelines over very carefully and see exactly how they would apply to all situations.

Mr. MacDonald: We have.

Mr. Lewis: Does the minister not realize that this is a classic little test case of the irrelevance of the guidelines in that he will appear before the Environmental Assessment Board, perhaps to say it's inappropriate to use those 500 acres in that fashion, but his colleague immediately to his left has already made it known that he and his ministry want that 500 acres as a landfill site? How does the minister allow his guidelines to be handled that way?

Mr. Breithaupt: Don't you talk to each other?

[10:30]

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, it is quite obvious the leader of the official opposition wanted it all etched in stone.

Mr. Breaugh: You should be etched in stone.

Hon. W. Newman: What I am saying by our guidelines, whether it applies here or anywhere else, is good common sense must prevail over the whole situation. I said our people would be going before that particular hearing. The members will be picking up

individual cases from time to time that they will bring before us, and that's fine. But the Leader of the Opposition wants it all written into legislation.

Mr. Lewis: Yes.

Hon. W. Newman: He wants it all written into legislation and to have it his own way.

Interjection.

Hon. W. Newman: But I tell the House there has got to be some flexibility in the guidelines and it is there.

Mr. Lewis: They are flexible all right. They are so flexible they are meaningless.

Hon. W. Newman: Your own people, your caucus said they were great.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: Who said so?

Hon. W. Newman: I am not going to tell you who said so.

Hon. Mr. Davis: All of your farmers.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are wasting time here. Does the hon. minister have a point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Mr. Snow: Yes, Mr. Speaker, in reply to the remarks of the hon. member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans) I would like to say there were two copies of my statement delivered to Mr. Lewis's office and Mr. Smith's office by special messenger this morning.

Mr. Deans: When?

Hon. Mr. Snow: This morning.

Hon. W. Newman: Why don't you go to your office?

Mr. Speaker: I am sure they will show up.

Mr. Lewis: Your message disappeared en route.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He went to the ball game.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

MEAT INSPECTION

Mr. S. Smith: A question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food: Regarding the findings of Dr. Botterell, and in particular two

of the findings—one regarding the sale of uninspected meat in the province and the other the indiscriminate use of antibiotics—can the minister tell us exactly what his ministry is going to be doing to implement the recommendation for a committee on antibiotics in agriculture for the protection of human and animal health—in particular to make sure that antibiotics indiscriminately used in agriculture do not (a) find their way into the human food chain and (b) result in the development of resistant organisms which will then affect humans without the proper antibiotics to defeat them?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, Dr. Botterell's report, which I released some time ago, contained 132 recommendations. We are at this point in time carrying out many of the recommendations. Many of the recommendations will be carried out—well over half of them in total—and the others are being studied at this point in time.

Regarding the member's question on meat inspection, all meat in the province of Ontario, by and large, at the larger plants is inspected, of course, by federal inspectors. They do inspect it for residue. At the smaller slaughterhouses throughout the province, which are inspected by our inspectors, all animals are inspected before they are slaughtered and are inspected after they are slaughtered. Some tissue samples are taken from any animal about which there is any doubt, and those animals are held until results are made known. So that, by and large, we pick up any particular problems in our smaller slaughterhouses.

Regarding the agricultural people using antibiotics to treat their livestock, all the antibiotics that are issued to the agricultural community today point out very clearly on the labels the time when they should withdraw these antibiotics, especially in milk. By testing the milk that goes into our labs, we can pick up antibiotics. There is a penalty to the milk producer for any milk that is shipped that is carrying antibiotics. As far as any feed is concerned that is set out for the farmers to feed to their livestock and contains antibiotics, there is a tag on it saying how long the livestock should be taken off the feed before they are slaughtered.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, is the minister then saying that he rejects the suggestion by Dr. Botterell that a committee be set up on antibiotics in agriculture and protection of human and animal health—in particular, some of the points that Dr. Botterell brought out about conflict of interest regarding veterinarians who sell the drugs,

where the bulk of some of their income comes from the sale of these drugs, and a very distinct possibility exists that these drugs could enter the human food chain? Why not accept the committee's suggestion, which strikes me as being very sensible? Certainly, as a physician I would feel more protected by that than by the minister's labels on the antibiotics.

Hon. W. Newman: As far as the committees are concerned, Dr. Botterell recommended in his report setting up about 15 or 17 committees. Certainly, we will be looking into that aspect very carefully, as the member well knows. If it is necessary to set up a committee I am certainly not averse to setting up a committee. I'd rather take direct action, if possible, than deal with a committee.

Mr. Riddell: Has the minister been given any indication that dead stock is again finding its way into human food, and that some of the culprits involved are the same ones that were involved before? Has he given any consideration to introducing legislation requiring that dead stock be sent directly to rendering plants, rather than to pet foods and other markets?

Hon. W. Newman: I am aware of the cases that were before us about a year-year and a half ago—where charges were laid regarding the handling of dead beef. It all has to be charcoaled before it is shipped anywhere. By and large, the problem there was that it was going from this province to another province where it was being dealt with, and then to some degree being sent back into this province. Some of those cases are still before the courts, I am not aware of anyone trying, at this point in time, to get involved in this. I heard nothing about it.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Minister of Health: Is it still the ministry's policy to send ambulances with 50,000 miles or over to northern Ontario, unless a hospital has "a proven ability" to maintain their vehicles? And will the minister tell the House exactly how many such vehicles have been sent to northern Ontario over the past several years and what the mileage was on each of them when the vehicle was sent there?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Obviously, I don't have the figures as to the mileage on each ambulance. But the concern of the ambulance branch is to issue a new vehicle—and, by and large, for the last few years that has meant a

Chrysler product—to an ambulance operation which is in reasonable proximity to a Chrysler dealer. This way if there are problems during the warranty period they can be attended to very quickly, so that the ambulance is not out of service for an inordinate length of time, and we don't have problems with the warranty.

I'll get the statistics the member wants—as to which ambulances were sent where. I might tell him that this year we will be replacing a significant number of the ambulances throughout the province.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of a brief supplementary: Is the minister aware of the minutes of the Ontario Hospital Association committee on ambulance services, in which they were addressed by the minister's director of ambulance services. The minutes say that Mr. Brubacher stated that generally it is policy to send vehicles with 50,000 miles or over to northern Ontario. There is nothing here about Chrysler dealers and it was my understanding—the minister can correct me if I am wrong—that there are a certain number of Chrysler dealers in northern Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the question has been answered.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The point is that there are ambulance services operating in a number of small communities, not just in northern Ontario, but throughout the province, which are not in close proximity to Chrysler dealers. But we would want to be sure—and it has nothing to do with north or south—that we had exhausted all the potential benefits of a warranty. I'm not sure of the minutes to which the hon. member is referring—I'm not sure how old they are, whether they are recent or several years ago—

Mr. S. Smith: December 14, 1976.

Mr. Riddell: Have you ever thought of replacing Brubacher?

Mr. Speaker: One final supplementary on this.

Mr. Foulds: I would like to ask the minister if he, with his colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman), can get tough with Chrysler and insist that they give service to northern Ontario—if that is what he is implying in his statement?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: It's the usual quality of question from over there—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: You can't claim so much for your answers.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, our concern always has to be that the vehicles we put on the road are in a condition to meet the needs of the area, and that we are able to maintain them. And if the hon. member has a concern about maintaining them, that's another problem.

Mr. Foulds: So the ones with 50,000 miles go north; the second-hand ones go north.

WINONA SEWAGE FACILITY

Mr. Deans: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Recognizing the severity of the sewage problem in the Winona area, and the statement of the minister of two days ago that he intended to spend something up to \$4 million over the next four years to try and solve it, is it not possible to bring that programme forward and to implement it much more quickly than the four year period, given that it's going to take perhaps six or seven years in the overall to get the remaining, connecting sewers up to the houses that have to have them?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: That line, the pipe, involves about three and a half miles. The region in fact is building the pipe from its present location at the edge of Hamilton about three and a half miles into Winona. They've allocated \$1 million for this year and the total cost is about \$4 million as the hon. member says. I would think that that should be completed, assuming they allocate funds for the next two or three years, by the end of 1979 or early 1980.

As the hon. member says, the problem is in the village of Winona. The septic systems there are a health menace at present; they've been condemned by the local medical officer of health. Therefore my ministry has allocated around \$650,000 or \$700,000 for work within the community.

We can finish the work, I would think, in the community itself by the end of next year. But as the hon. member knows, that work won't be any good until it's connected to the pipe that will be going into the Hamilton treatment plant. So it will be a matter of the region stepping up its work. We are paying our usual 15 per cent grant on works like

that. If some arrangement can be made to speed up the pipe, having in mind the arrangement as to funds, I would be happy to see that done.

Mr. Deans: One supplementary question: Is it not possible to extend the funds now to the region, on a loan basis if need be, in order that they can proceed and get the work done? So that they can be completed, they can have the trunk sewer ready next year, when the province has the connections ready in the village?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Frankly, I haven't got funds in my budget for more than the 15 per cent grant as far as the pipe is concerned. There is money, as I said, going into the village of Winona. If my friend on my left is generous and will increase my allotment for that particular project for next year, it's possible to advance the completion of construction.

Mr. Deans: Find out if he will give you some money.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes, I will.

REFORESTATION

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. Can the minister advise what he's going to do about reforestation in the province in the next few years, in view of the fact it was mentioned in the Throne Speech and in view of the fact that in the last five years we've fallen behind some 370,000 acres in reforesting the province?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, of course that last editorial comment was the hon. member's and not necessarily factual.

Mr. Reid: It came from your ministry so I don't believe it either.

Mr. Riddell: It's not the only time your ministry has given out that information.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It's a normal indication of looking at a figure and concluding already on the basis of a predetermined thought. I'm learning to speak like the Premier, aren't I?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Now the hon. minister with the answer.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The fact is it may be premature for me to jump to priorities within the ministry, but as I see my most important priority right now it is to improve our efforts at regeneration by other than natural means.

Mr. Martel: Well?

Hon. F. S. Miller: This is tied really not to simply planting trees. I think there's a naive belief that if we got a lot of young kids out with axes or some kind of instrument and put them in the north and put seed in the ground we'd have a lot more trees. I think the hon. member for Sudbury East knows that—he lives up there. It has a great deal to do with harvesting techniques. So I'm discussing the way we manage our forests with the pulp mills, particularly for spruce; I'm determined to see that we will keep on improving.

By the way, this year I'm told we will spend \$5 million more for reforestation than we did last year. This I'm told will allow us to have some 45,000 to 50,000 more acres of regeneration this year than last year.

Mr. Martel: If it stays alive, Frank.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Last year we had about 175,000, compared to 30,000 10 years ago. So I think when you put these statistics together we've done a lot to improve reforestation in Ontario.

Mr. Lewis: It's still pretty pathetic.

Hon. F. S. Miller: There is a lot still to be learned. I thought that we knew how to re-plant trees. We don't. There are lots of things that still are not known about certain species.

[10:45]

Mr. Lewis: Oh, come on. This beguiling innocence is too much.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. The hon. Leader of the Opposition, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'll even—

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, they have been planting trees for generations in this world.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, they have.

Mr. Speaker: The question's been asked and an answer's been given.

Mr. S. Smith: Sweden is working on its third forest.

Hon. F. S. Miller: But you know, one of the things about this—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There's no supplementary question yet.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I realize that, but he's stimulating my glands.

Mr. Speaker: I don't know what that has to do with reforestation.

An hon. member: I could use some help with that.

An hon. member: He's in the wrong ministry.

Mr. Lewis: I could reply to that in a way that would have me ejected.

Hon. F. S. Miller: They'll start misconstruing our friendship.

Mr. Lewis: Perish the thought.

Mr. Reid: That certainly explains a lot anyway.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Can the hon. minister be allowed to continue?

Hon. F. S. Miller: They're diverting me. In any case, I can only assure the member I am determined to put a lot of time, effort, and I hope government money—

Mr. Lewis: Into learning how to plant a tree.

Hon. F. S. Miller: —into improving what is already an excellent programme.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, the minister said it was an excellent programme and my figures, which weren't refuted by his ministry officials, is that we're something like two million acres short of reforestation in the province. But my supplementary is this: In view of the fact that, even of all the replanting that's been done, there's only a 50 per cent survival rate after five years, can the minister inform us what he's going to do about the technology and ensure that the trees that are planted do survive and are a quality tree?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I would think one of the things we have to keep in mind is that when one has a regeneration programme, one is aware that not every seedling is going to take root.

Mr. Reid: Fifty per cent is not a good average.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The fact remains that—
Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The interjections are not assisting.

Hon. F. S. Miller: —the areas subject to intensive silvicultural techniques, I'm told,

produce about twice the overall volume of timber that naturally regenerated grounds do.

Mr. Stokes: Not with clear cutting, it doesn't.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Ah! Clear cutting is a very useful technique, provided the widths of the clear cutting are managed. As I'm sure the hon. member who interjected knows, we're working on those also. I've discussed those with the presidents of the pulp mills and the forest industry very recently.

Mr. Cassidy: How long?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am told of all the types we're working on—

Mr. Cassidy: How long does the rape go on?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Just let me answer. Of all the types we're working on, black spruce in the wet country is still the toughest to work on that requires clear cutting. It requires clear cutting of a managed type rather than simply cutting for very many hundreds of yards with no stands of trees left in the middle.

Mr. Foulds: Miles.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Those are the kinds of things I'm determined to see improved and I'm sure will be.

Mr. Cassidy: The government has been around for 34 years to do it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This has developed into a discussion instead of a question and answer period.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If there's a question, we will allow it. This is the final question on this.

Mr. Foulds: I would like to ask the minister, in the programme that he has planned, and I gather he said an additional \$5 million—

An hon. member: Twenty-five million dollars.

Mr. Foulds: —in the coming year, how much of that money will be devoted to hiring additional unit foresters, so that the supervision of the management plans in terms of the company cutting and the reforestation actually can take place?

Mr. Martel: That's where the breakdown starts.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think there's a certain amount extra for management. I was talking about reforestation and I think there's \$550,000 more in the budget over last year for management of projects in addition to the amount of money that is being spent on reforestation per se. We're counting them as separate things.

One of the things I have to determine is this: Should government be the agency doing the replanting, or should it simply insist on the replanting being done? That's one of the ones I want to look into.

Mr. Lewis: You are going to look into it, and you took the responsibility five years ago.

Mr. Martel: What a hodge-podge over there.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I announced that as a final supplementary. We've spent quite a bit of time on that one subject.

An hon. member: It's important.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Much of that time would be better spent on new questions.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: You are right.

Mr. Speaker: This is a question and answer period and not a discussion period, I might point out again. The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications has the answer to a question asked previously.

Mr. Lewis: Better have the return of Leo Bernier.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer recent questions asked by the hon. member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham) respecting the Urban Transportation Development Corporation.

I apologize, Mr. Speaker, if this answer may be a little long. You may, I guess, decide that—

Mr. Speaker: Is it the length I see in your hand there?

Hon. Mr. Snow: No.

Mr. Speaker: I point out again there are these complaints about question period. If the answer is a lengthy one then it should be given before the orders of the day, during statements by the ministry. As to what is considered a long answer, I would think anything over two minutes is a long answer. Some of them stretch longer than that.

Mr. Breithaupt: That's true.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He is just getting started.

Mr. MacDonald: A good guideline.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, we don't want to get down to figures on this.

Mr. Ruston: Next question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We're still wasting the time of the question period, I might say, with the interjections. About how long is the answer?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, the answer is five pages, but if you wish—

Mr. Speaker: Can you summarize it?

Mr. Peterson: He hasn't read it yet, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Snow: No. Mr. Speaker, if that's the feeling of the House I'll be glad to delay the answer until next week.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: If it's too long then I'll add a minute or so on to the question period, but please keep this in mind for both questions and answers.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, why are you allowing this? Why can you not just revert to ministerial statements? Why take it out of the question period?

Mr. Speaker: We'll judge that. We'll see how long it is. The hon. minister will continue.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Some of it is the answer to a question.

Mr. MacDonald: Two minutes.

Mr. Speaker: I said that was an approximation, but it's a good guide. The hon. minister will start now.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I could have been on page three by now.

Mr. Breithaupt: You are imputing motives.

UTDC FOREIGN CONTRACTS

Hon. Mr. Snow: The hon. member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham) questioned me recently in connection with the Urban Transportation Development Corporation and its bid to have Ontario manufacturers supply the major components of the proposed subway system in Caracas, Venezuela.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, that the primary concern of the hon. member seemed not to be with the success of the effort but rather with the apparent need of UTDC to deal through a commercial agent.

I feel it is important that the members of the Legislature be aware of the circumstances of this matter. A Canadian consortium consisting of UTDC of Toronto and Hawker/Siddeley Canada Limited of Thunder Bay entered into an agreement to form a joint venture consortium to bid for the supply of major components of the proposed subway system in Caracas, Venezuela. The project is estimated to be for approximately \$250 million worth of transit equipment supply.

The joint venture company, named Metro Canada Limited, entered its bid on March 18, 1977. The proposal included the supply of 242 subway cars which would be built in Thunder Bay, Ontario, electrical distribution systems for the complete subway and automatic train control equipment and the design, supply and installation of the complete track-work. The total project could provide over 2,700 man years of employment for Canadian workers, with the work spread throughout a number of communities in Ontario and, possibly, some in Quebec and other provinces.

The joint venture company, Metro Canada Limited, has received financial support from the governments of Canada, Quebec and Ontario. The consortium's bid was in competition with nine other international consortiums, including the British, French and Japanese.

Metro Canada Limited was formed to meet the Venezuelan requirements for common or joint responsibility among the contracting parties. The Venezuelan procedures also required that the various international bidders be represented by legal representatives domiciled in Venezuela. Therefore, the Canadian consortium engaged the services of a Venezuelan

commercial representative named Venezuelan International Business Consultants. This firm was engaged after extensive interviews and following consultations with a number of Canadian and Venezuelan companies, banking institutions and legal firms. The commercial representative contract meets, and in most cases exceeds, the guidelines recently developed by the federal government for use in engaging foreign representative services.

The particular services and expertise required of the representatives and the information requested by the hon. member is as follows:

He must be familiar with and provide advice on marketing conditions in Caracas as they relate to labour rates and employment practices; the ability to secure especially skilled labour at appropriate times throughout the contract; Venezuelan practices with respect to fringe benefits, labour rates, holidays and working conditions; labour productivity and wage escalation provisions; customs and excise practices and duties, warehousing and local shipping services; subcontractor practices, their payment terms and supervisory practices.

He must be familiar with and provide advice on Venezuelan banking practices and local subcontractors' financing practices. He will provide advice and reports on Venezuelan laws and regulations with respect to public works contracts, municipal services, permits for buildings, electrical codes, worker safety regulations and so on. He will assist in and provide reports for negotiations on acceptable terms and conditions for the prime contract and the various subcontracts to be tendered in Venezuela. He will assist in the administration and conduct of acceptance and commissioning procedures and negotiations and administration of all warranty provisions and customer service.

The management of Metro Canada Limited and the board of directors of UTDC approved the foreign representative's contract and the board of directors of UDTC advised the Ontario government, as UDTC's primary shareholder, of the contract and its provisions. The Ontario government officials examined the documentation and concurred with UDTC's board of directors in the approval of the agreement.

For the further information of the members of the Legislature, I am tabling the following documents: A Management Board of Cabinet document, dated February 25, 1977, entitled Conduct of Business by Agencies, Boards and Commissions; a statement by the Hon. Robert

Andras of December 16, 1976, in his capacity as president of the Treasury Board, government of Canada, on the government policy and guidelines concerning the commercial practices of federal Crown corporations; the draft of the commercial representation agreement, dated October 1, 1976; the resolution by the board of directors of UDTC re commercial representation agreement; the report on federal Crown corporation guidelines and the Metro Canada Venezuelan commercial representation agreement; a letter to myself from my deputy minister reporting on this matter, dated December 14, 1976; and a letter from my deputy minister to Mr. Foley, president of UTDC, dated December 20, 1976.

Mr. Speaker: We will add four minutes to the question period.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might ask a supplementary on this?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Cunningham: I did ask in my question what the basis was of the commission or retainer and I have yet to hear this. I am just wondering how much this little soirée to Venezuela cost the Ontario taxpayers?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I felt I already answered in some length. I have stated that I am tabling the contract and I thought that would give the hon. member the information.

Mr. Shore: He can't read.

Mr. Warner: Supplementary: Could the minister advise us as to the success of the—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We can't hear the hon. member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

Mr. Warner: Could the minister advise us as to the success of the trip so far to Venezuela, as it is generally understood that they were not successful, they have not achieved a contract and that what is the normal practice for most countries will remain—that is, that the equipment will be built and purchased in the country or by common agreement, such as in the European Common Market, so there is no chance for the sale to be consummated?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Conway: Is the member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski) going to run in Venezuela?

Hon. Mr. Snow: The bid has been submitted, as I stated, on March 18. There is no decision by the Venezuelan government or no award of contract at this time.

Nine bids were submitted. As the members may be aware, a federal consortium submitted a much larger bid several months ago for a railway contract also in Venezuela. To my knowledge at this moment, no contract has been awarded on that one to date, but certainly my understanding is that things look very good, perhaps not for the total contract but at least for portions of the contract in both those situations.

[11:00]

It's not unnatural in a contract of a size such as this and when many of the bids were perhaps not totally in accordance with the specifications, that the Venezuelan officials will take some lengthy period of time to analyse all these contracts. We don't expect that there'll be any early decision made or any awards made in the immediate future.

TIMMINS HEALTH LAB

Mr. Ferrier: I have a question, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Health: Is the minister in a position to explain why, after his predecessor and his parliamentary assistant have said that the replacement facilities for the provincial health lab in Timmins has top priority in his ministry, that those inadequate facilities which are really a firetrap are still what they're using for the provincial facilities? Can the minister surely not get different and adequate and proper facilities for those workers in the Ontario provincial health lab in Timmins right away?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I will be discussing this matter with cabinet next Wednesday and hope late next week to announce our decision.

FLOOD PLAINS

Mr. Gaunt: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Natural Resources: Since the flood plain criteria and management evaluation study was undertaken last April with the final completion date of August 1976; and since the report is now completed, but according to the ministry officials as of two days ago the minister will not be making any decisions on this matter until the report is printed in its final form; and, since this matter is an urgent one as far as the conservation authorities and many property owners are

concerned, would the minister consider dealing with the matter immediately as a priority item rather than waiting for the final glossy print version?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I understand it's ready for printing right now, and in fact it's one of those important topics, as the member has said. I want the chairman's committee of conservation authorities and the PMLC to have a chance to have some input into it; I'm certain the Minister of Housing is going to have some very real interest in it too.

As to proceeding faster, I'll certainly consider it. I've asked that my parliamentary assistant become specifically responsible for conservation authority problems so that some one will have the time to devote to it, perhaps more exclusively than the minister, per se, will, and yet have a political input into it. I hope that his extra efforts will help speed it up.

Mr. Gaunt: Supplementary: In view of the fact that the flood plain mapping criteria are currently holding up much of the development in my part of the province and in other parts of the province as well, what sort of time frame does the minister see in respect to holding these meetings with the conservation authorities and in finalizing this entire matter?

Hon. F. S. Miller: In all honesty I couldn't give the member a time frame, but I'll be glad to have one worked out for him.

GAS RATES

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy: In view of the fact that the Consumers' Gas Company reported a 33 per cent increase in profits in the three months ended December 31, due to the unusually severe weather last fall, is the minister prepared to suggest to the Ontario Energy Board that it should consider ordering a rebate of these excess profits to customers who have been hit by rate increases both last October and in March of this year?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: As the members of this House know, rates are determined by the Ontario Energy Board. That unusual income will no doubt be taken into consideration in the determination of the rates and, of course, will consequently flow through to the consumer—I would assume in the form of a lesser rate than they would have suffered because of those added revenues.

In other words, yes indeed, the consumer will benefit from that.

Ms. Bryden: Supplementary: Could I ask the minister how this situation differs from the situation in northern Ontario, where the Northern and Central Gas Corporation has been ordered to make a rebate of excess profits to the customers there in a similar situation?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It is my understanding that the rebates, if we can call them rebates, are in effect a deduction from what the rate otherwise would be; in other words, it's reflected in current rates permitted by the Ontario Energy Board. All of the rates of the gas distributors have to go before the Ontario Energy Board, where there's a public hearing—and of course representations are made, intervenors are there—and the board sets the rate of return to the company, and accordingly fixes what the rates will be.

If there is an unusual profit—in this case because of an unusual volume of sales—then that will be reflected in the current rate, or the rate that is determined by the board. So in effect there is a rebate, but it may be done in a different manner than a member may have heard was the case in another jurisdiction, where a cheque for \$5 or \$10 may be sent out to customers.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION FOR FARMERS

Mr. Riddell: A question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food, if I can get his attention.

With the financial collapse of Essex Packers and the consequential hardships and near bankruptcies of beef producers being the motivating factor behind the establishment of the financial protection task force, what action is the minister going to take to reduce the financial risk that is so inherent in the transfer of ownership of food products from the farmer to the purchasers, as was indicated in this report of the task force?

Hon. W. Newman: I think there are eight or nine recommendations in that report. There were some suggestions that we should ask for changes in The Bank Act. We will be pursuing that, though we have given up, almost, pursuing amendments to The Bank Act, because we've been trying for so many years. That's why I set up a task force, so that we could get these recommendations.

There are several schemes that could be worked out under our present legislation, The Farm Products Marketing Board Act. As members know, the Ontario Milk Marketing

Board has a programme in place. I look back to what happened last year; but the total loss is 0.007 per cent of sales, which is very low, however that still doesn't help those individual farmers who get into a particular problem.

I'm looking at all the recommendations at this point in time. Some of them involve other ministries. We are talking to the other ministries and are pursuing the matter with them. We hope we will come up with a single programme of some sort that will try and encompass as many of those recommendations as possible.

I think they did an excellent job in the report; they have come up with some very good recommendations.

Mr. Riddell: In this same connection, recalling a speech the minister made at the time Essex Packers went into receivership, advising the farmers not to accept the first offer, I have now been led to believe that on the advice of the minister, those farmers who refused the 15 cents on the dollar will now not receive one red cent; and those farmers who did accept the 15 cents on the dollar will receive in the neighbourhood of nine cents on the dollar. Is this information factual; is the government now prepared to admit making a very serious blunder in leasing its facilities to Essex Packers in the first place; and what is the minister going to do to help these farmers?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, as far as the leasing of the plant is concerned, that does not come under my purview. As the member well knows, it comes under the Ministry of Correctional Services.

But as far as the individual farmers are concerned, yes I did say, at a meeting a year or so ago—of whatever it was, I believe it was the cattlemen's association—that I thought they should hold on. I was led to believe, maybe wrongly so—and occasionally we do this, you know; sometimes we stick our neck out on behalf of what we think is the best thing for the farmer.

Mr. Breithaupt: You have had lots of practice at making mistakes.

Hon. W. Newman: None of us are perfect, and I take the full responsibility for what happened.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. You're wasting valuable time.

Hon. W. Newman: I accept the responsibility. On the understanding of phone calls that I had received, there was to be some better and firmer offers coming in, which did not materialize. But I accept that responsibility as an individual—

Mr. MacDonald: But not as a minister.

Mr. Breithaupt: What are you going to do about it now?

Hon. W. Newman: Yes, I did do it. Maybe I jumped the gun; I did what I thought was right at that time. We were told there were better offers coming, which did not come forward at that time.

Mr. Reid: Do what's right now; resign.

Hon. W. Newman: Subsequent to the Essex Packers and other situations that have occurred in the past or could occur in the future, I set up this task force and I intend to implement many of its recommendations.

Some hon. members: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary; the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lewis: One supplementary: Since he was clearly speaking to that group in his capacity as Minister of Agriculture and Food and, inadvertently or otherwise, may have misled them, does the minister not feel a governmental responsibility now to meet at least the nine-cent level, which others apparently will be paid but many will miss as a result of the minister's specific advice? I understand it wasn't made deliberately, but surely some compensation is forthcoming.

Mr. Riddell: That's inflation for you.

Hon. W. Newman: I've forgotten the exact wording, but at that time I indicated to the producers at that meeting, and I don't deny it, that I thought a better offer was coming and that I would suggest—or however I worded it—that perhaps it would be better if they waited. Some of those who did, unfortunately, did not make out as well as those who didn't. But certainly I did not deliberately or intentionally mislead anyone. I thought they would and I was hoping they would—

Mr. Reid: Nobody is arguing that.

Hon. W. Newman: As a matter of fact, I personally talked afterward to some of these people who had indicated they would come forward with a better offer. I won't tell the hon. member what I told them, but certainly they heard very loudly, and clearly from me.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

Mr. Gaunt: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: We've had a lot of supplementaries. We'll allow a final supplementary. The member for Kitchener.

Mr. Breithaupt: The minister having done what he thought was right at that time with the information he then had, would the minister now do the right thing again and arrange, either through additional funds for his ministry or in some form, to compensate those persons who took his advice or suggestion in good faith?

Mr. Speaker: I believe that question was just asked and answered.

Mr. S. Smith: No, it wasn't.

Mr. Lewis: It wasn't answered.

Mr. Peterson: What is the answer then?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: I don't believe I have any legal authority to do such a thing, but there are recommendations in this report which would prohibit some of these things from happening down the road. Look, we're going to have bankruptcies—I don't care whether it's in the private sector or in the agricultural sector—across this country from time to time.

Mr. Peterson: The whole province.

Hon. W. Newman: There are hundreds of them a week. We are trying to make it a little better. If we could get an amendment—I won't say from the Liberals' friends any more, but from the federal government in Ottawa—to change The Bank Act, as we've been trying to do for a long time, we wouldn't even have had to have this report and we wouldn't have had that problem.

Mr. Breithaupt: Jack Horner's friends.

Mr. Gaunt: Supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: No. The hon. member for Welland-Thorold.

Mr. Gaunt: It is a very important matter, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Gaunt: It's very important.

Mr. Speaker: I realize that—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is just one person supposed to be asking questions here, and I had announced that that was the last supplementary because we're nearly at the finish of the question period. If there is any time left, then we'll allow further questions.

The member for Welland-Thorold.

DAYTON FORGING AND HEAT TREATING COMPANY

Mr. Swart: My question is to the Minister of Industry and Tourism: Would the minister explain why his ministry would approach the heat treat companies in the United States, particularly one with which I am familiar, the Dayton Forging and Heat Treating Company of Dayton, Ohio, to establish a facility in Ontario to supply a certain major customer here? Instead, why wouldn't his ministry approach our existing Ontario heat treat companies who have the capacity and know-how to look after the requirements and who have employees on layoff?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I'll have to take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker, because I'm not even aware of the particular case the hon. member is referring to. If he would like to supply me with that information, I shall make an inquiry through the ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps you might send it across.

Mr. Swart: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: If there can be on that answer.

Mr. Swart: There is a supplementary on that answer. I ask the minister if he is not aware of a letter that was sent to him some three weeks ago by H and S Heat Treating in Welland concerning this matter. Would he also, when he is looking into it, find out why information was refused by Mr. Murray Berlin of his ministry's office in Cleveland to H and S Heat Treating? They called to get information on this matter and it was completely refused. Could the minister look into that matter?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I'll take the question as notice.

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. S. Smith: A question to the Minister of Health: What is the minister's response

to the request by North End Residents Organization in Hamilton for assistance from his ministry for the establishment of a medical project to provide local health services in the north end of Hamilton?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I don't believe that that has come to me. It may have gone to the branch of the ministry that looks at requests for grants. But I'll take that question as notice and find out. I have not seen that request.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary for clarification: I take it, then, that the Premier has not been in touch with the minister about that, and that the minister will look at the ministry branch that might be responsible and report back. Is that correct?

[11:15]

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: That's right. Often, Mr. Speaker, the correspondence that comes in, rather than it being all put upon my desk immediately is put out for investigation so that it comes back to my desk not only with the request but also the answer.

Mr. Peterson: You shuffle paper, Dennis. You just admitted it all. You just admitted you are a glorified mailman.

PAN-AMERICAN GAMES

Mr. Mackenzie: To the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet. In the absence of the Premier, I am wondering if he could respond to these questions. The mayor of Hamilton has indicated that the province of Ontario has committed itself to better than \$17 million to the city of Hamilton for the promotion of the Pan-Am Games based on a cost of approximately \$55 million. Is this a firm commitment of the province of Ontario? Will the province increase its commitment in the event that the cost of the 1983 project escalates, and to what extent would the province increase its commitment in the event of a cost escalation?

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I can't answer those questions. I will attempt to get the information or pass the questions along to the Premier. I am not aware of the details of whatever negotiations are going on.

UTDC FOREIGN CONTRACTS

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. In response to my question

of March 31 regarding the Venezuelan UTDC deal, he indicated our bid was "very unlikely to be accepted." When is the minister going to admit that the UTDC is a complete failure and that we are wasting millions of Ontario taxpayers' dollars?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe those statements are factual at all. I did say I did not believe the UTDC bid as submitted would be successful because there were lower bids submitted. But I understand now that some of the lower bids that were submitted are conditional bids, so the whole matter will have to await the full consideration by the Venezuelan government of all the bids received. So we are not writing off the fact, certainly now, that none of our bids will be acceptable.

Mr. Cunningham: Supplementary, if I may: I am just wondering if the minister would indicate to the members of the House, and through us I suppose to the people of Ontario who have been supporting this fiasco for so long, just what substantial contracts we do have awaiting us here, and what progress is UTDC making? What real contracts are we going to expect to see here?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I really don't know what the hon. member is referring to. This is the only contract that I am aware of where the UTDC has joined with the private sector and with the federal Department of Industry where we are attempting to generate major foreign export business for Canadian industries. This to my knowledge is the first bid of this type that has been made.

FOREST FIRES

Mr. Foulds: In the absence of the Minister of Natural Resources, who I assume is already out planting trees while the others go to the ball game, I would like to direct a question to the resources secretary. In view of the continuing serious drought situation throughout northwestern Ontario, in which we have now 60 winter fires still burning, can the minister tell this House what steps have been taken for increased training of potential firefighting crews, for the establishment of standby crews, and for the seconding of other ministry personnel to these firefighting responsibilities as the situation arises?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the seriousness of the situation, but I do not know what steps have been taken

and will be pleased to get that information to the hon. member.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary, if I might: While the minister is seeking that information, could he find out if the plans of the ministry include the seconding of the forest management unit foresters and all the people involved in the reforestation programme to the firefighting situation should that need arise? Will that mean a cancelling of the reforestation programme as mentioned in the Throne Speech?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: I will make sure, Mr. Speaker, that that also is determined.

Mr. Reid: Would the minister also ensure that there is some co-ordination and liaison between his ministry or the Ministry of Natural Resources people and the various towns and municipalities and unorganized townships, because the whole place could be wiped out unless we have a fairly good programme?

NANTICOKE WATER LINE EXTENSION

Mr. G. I. Miller: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Is there any possibility of extending the water line from the Nanticoke water intake which has already been established to the municipalities of Jarvis and Hagersville, due to the fact that the correctional boys' school at Hagersville is on that line and there is a real need for better water quality in Hagersville and a shortage of water in Jarvis?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, the proposed water line or extension of a water line to Jarvis, for example, is more or less tied into the future development of the Townsend area, and in the event that Townsend goes ahead it will be, of course, necessary to provide serviced lots within that new community. As Jarvis and Hagersville are in that area, it is natural to expect that the line would be extended to serve those two communities.

If Townsend doesn't go ahead the line will be a very expensive one as far as the users would be concerned in those two communities. So once a decision is made regarding Townsend, then in the event we don't go ahead with the new community we will have to make up our minds whether or not to service those areas. I appreciate the need for water, particularly in Jarvis, and if we can do something about the high rates that will

result from that line, we will consider the extension.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, could I ask one supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

REPORTS

Mrs. Campbell from the standing procedural affairs committee presented the committee's report which was read as follows and adopted:

Your committee has carefully examined the following applications for private Acts and finds the notices, as published in each case, sufficient: Webwood Investments Limited. The Trustees of the Toronto General Burying Grounds. Canada Trustco Mortgage Company. Borough of York. Village of Erie Beach. John A. Schmalz Agencies Limited. Borough of Scarborough. Fred LeBlond Cement Products Limited. Borough of East York. Brockville General Hospital. Kevalaine Corporation Limited. Township of Dover. Monsignor Zoel Lambert, Casgrain township. Roman Catholic Episcopal Church, Diocese of Alexandria. County of Peterborough. Frank Postl Enterprises Limited. City of Ottawa. Lombardo Furniture and Appliances Limited. City of Sault Ste. Marie. Perfume and Cosmetic Bars.

Your committee further recommends that copies of the Canadian Parliamentary Guide be purchased for distribution to the members of the assembly.

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

MINISTRY OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS ACT

Hon. Mr. Welch, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Davis, moved first reading of Bill 26, An Act to establish the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Conway: All Leo needs is Jeanette MacDonald.

EMPLOYEES' HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Laughren moved first reading of Bill 27, An Act to amend The Employees' Health and Safety Act, 1976.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to discontinue the use of a collective bargaining agreement as a means for obtaining an exemption from the provision allowing an employee to continue to refuse to do work which he has reason to believe is unsafe. If I might say, we know this is a provisional bill, but it does serve notice as to how we think it should be changed for the omnibus legislation.

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, I have a message from the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor signed by her own hand.

Mr. Speaker: By her own hand, P. M. McGibbon, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1978, and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly, Toronto, April 7, 1977.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before calling the orders of the day—in keeping with the new rules, perhaps this might be an appropriate time to indicate the order of business for next week. The House will not, of course, sit on Monday. We will be sitting Tuesday and Thursday evenings next week. Tuesday afternoon and Tuesday evening, Thursday evening and Friday morning will be Throne Speech debate. Thursday afternoon will be the first session for the private members' public bills, at which time we will be calling orders 15 and 16. According to the motion, of course, the House does not sit on Wednesday. So the order next week would be Throne Speech debate, except for Thursday afternoon when we will do the private members' hour.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, having due regard to the constraints of time I shall be careful to leave room for my hon. colleague from Downsview (Mr. di Santo) who I know

is as eager as I to participate in the discussion this morning.

I'm happy to see that we now have the Deputy Speaker who has somehow survived the evening after that praise from the hon. member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea)—which I thought was effusive, to say the least.

Mr. Breithaupt: Precisely on point, though.

Mr. Conway: I should like to join with my colleagues in highlighting that praise, which is obviously and appropriately given, and particularly encourage the hon. Deputy Speaker in the efforts that he has so carefully and successfully undertaken in this assembly, the new rules notwithstanding.

Likewise, it is a pleasure for me, as a relative newcomer to this august assembly, to speak briefly this morning on the address of Her Honour tabled and read in this assembly on Tuesday, March 29, 1977. To be sure, and not surprisingly, it is a desk-thumping assertion that babies are beautiful and that God is in his heaven and that the Progressive Conservatives are alive and well in Ontario.

Mr. Ruston: It's questionable about that.

Mr. Conway: Nothing is new.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: You are taking lessons on how to whistle in the dark.

Mr. Conway: Some things are about to change. I must say as a member of this assembly I cannot take exception with any substantial point in this motherhood statement. I will repeat briefly the points that have been made and will no doubt be re-made time and time again throughout this Throne Speech debate. After all, how does one, for example, take issue with something as motherhood as "the faith and optimism which Ontarians share with respect to Canadian Confederation emerge from a deep conviction about Canada and about Ontario's place within Canada."

[11:30]

I go on to the comments about: "We must ensure, as the province of opportunity, that each citizen can participate fully in all aspects of life in Ontario, because we recognize equality of opportunity as the springboard of significant achievement." And so it goes. It's not the sort of thing about which one can take a great deal of exception and certainly one does not feel the need for any great amount of political umbrage.

Mr. Moffatt: Are you going to support it?

Mr. Conway: I must say the document is, as has been stated by my leader and others in this assembly, some measure of testament to the quality of minority government. I know the hon. member for London North (Mr. Shore) was ecstatic in his praise, as was the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Handleman), about the government's wholehearted support for the extension of rent control, something near and dear to the hearts of those two particular government members. I know that hon. members on this side of the House share with them the concern for and the emphasis on this particularly important aspect of our urban community particularly.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: You are going to vote for it?

Mr. Conway: The fact that we now have an admission by the government that the children's services of the province of Ontario need desperately to be overhauled, to be improved and, most importantly, to be consolidated, is something about which we in this party feel an especial pride.

I must say in that connection that it is significant and positive that our good friend from Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton) has been recently appointed to that ministry, not so much because of what he has to offer, and indeed in personal and political terms I would suggest that he has indeed a significant contribution to make, but more importantly, he is a welcome change from his predecessor who was unfortunate and was granted a short-term appointment to that very important social portfolio. He has now been sent to the nondescript pastures of Energy, there to rummage and ruminate as he will and does, as I see this morning, on Canada AM, which will at least be to my pleasure if not that of the government.

Mr. Reed: He won't be there long either.

Hon. Mr. Welch: You are getting personal.

Mr. Conway: I was pleased to see that among the suggestions put forward was a motion for the call for freedom of information. It is interesting that in its inimitable style the government should see fit to appoint a commission. I must say there is a commission not only to study the freedom of information and its viability and possibility, but also a commission to investigate The Workmen's Compensation Act, a commission to investigate the pension plans in the province and commissions of such kind.

This particular business of freedom of information seems to be a much-talked-about point. I probably differ from many people in the opposition in fundamental terms that, while I can appreciate the direction of freedom of information and the peculiar turn of the bureaucratic mind that would keep all information from us if possible, I do not share the view of particularly the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald), I believe, and others, who somehow feel freedom of information is something of a golden answer to the problems of the difficulty involved.

Mr. Warner: No, but it would help.

Mr. Conway: I certainly think it will help, but I do not expect freedom of information to fundamentally change the process. I do hope, however—and I would suggest as a fitting place to begin in the discussion of freedom of information because I think it is a significant indication of government's intention—that we might apply it, when the commission is final in its analysis, to The Election Finances Reform Act, for example.

I've always felt the need and the utility in bringing to bear the concept of freedom of information to, let us say, the funds that may be available to those of us as politicians and political parties. What better place to put this freedom of information as a concept into place? I don't know what is so sacrosanct about that date in mid-February 1975, which is as a genesis to the election expenses discussion.

I am sure that the PC fund, for example, existed prior to that date, and I think that that might be a good place to start in applying the freedom of information concept. It is a small, perhaps a moot, point but I am impressed with the government's direction. To the extent that one humble member from these lonely back benches might suggest to that government a place to start with that commission, I might respectfully suggest The Election Finances Reform Act as a fitting beginning.

An hon. member: Not only back-benchers are humble.

Mr. Conway: I mentioned earlier the personal approval I have for the appointment of the new Minister of Community and Social Services and the very major tasks he was assigned in the Throne Speech. However, there is a counterweight, as we would expect, in the Throne Speech and in the government programme, relating to another ministry, in this case, a reconstituted ministry involving another minister. As a member of this assem-

bly who has a riding that straddles the southern and northern Ontario regions, having, for example, a significant if not too heavily populated part of the district of Nipissing in my riding, I have then some measure of interest in this new portfolio, the legislation for which was introduced just a few moments ago by the government.

Clearly, if ever a sop and morsel were offered to the good people of northern Ontario—and I know, Mr. Speaker, that you have a special concern for this particular matter—if ever we were thrown a sop and a morsel it is this political frill and whitewash that we are now to believe is the Minister of Northern Affairs. I only hope that we can restrict the machinations and travels, for my particular constituency's point of view, of this new minister to north of the French River. They are certainly welcome to him. God bless him in his deliberations, but below the French River I hope and pray he will not travel.

Mr. Breaugh: How about in the French River?

Mr. Conway: The hon. member for Oshawa has gone further to suggest putting him or perhaps keeping him above water but in the French River.

Mr. Breaugh: What's so bad about water?

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, it being Lent I cannot be so uncharitable.

Mr. Bullbrook: It's Holy Thursday.

Mr. Conway: I'm glad to see the member for Sarnia here, because in that chair last night he would not claim credit for me politically or otherwise. I'm glad to see that.

Mr. Bullbrook: I do now.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: You are taking all the blame are you, Jim?

An hon. member: That's your problem.

Mr. Bullbrook: I regard you as a little brother.

Mr. Breaugh: Thank God he said "brother."

Mr. Conway: The point, of course, about the Ministry of Northern Affairs is simply that it is a clear admission on behalf of particularly the Premier of this province that he has a particular, peculiar political difficulty in the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier) and, in fact, the new ministry is a testament to the banishment of that particular gentleman particularly from southern Ontario.

Regrettably, the recent cabinet shuffle, which I think is related in these matters, is

in its own particular regard an admission of other problems that this government has had and no doubt will continue to have. Like the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I take a cynical delight in the fact that we now have the hon. member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener) as Minister of Revenue. If that does not put, as one columnist suggested the other day, "a drag on the political upward mobility of the hon. Treasurer" (Mr. McKeough) then surely nothing in God's creation can do so.

I have said, and I continue to say, that from my own particular interest of eastern Ontario it's clear from much of this government's policy—and I speak now of cabinet representation, and I am delighted to have my colleague from Carleton here with me today, knowing, as I do, he has a very trying afternoon before him.

Mr. Ruston: At the ballpark.

An hon. member: A dry one.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Not if they win, he won't.

Mr. Conway: But eastern Ontario continues to be to this government what northern Ontario has more visibly been presented as over the past few years in this assembly. The feeling of alienation in eastern Ontario is, in fact, increasing and I would now suggest has reached a level outside perhaps the boundaries of Carleton, so well looked after by our dearly beloved federal government. But for the rest of eastern Ontario there is now a sense of regional disparity and regional alienation that I would suggest approximates that which has been historically the case in northern Ontario.

I must say this, that while we do have our problems in that government, while we do have the member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski) as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources, and while we do have our dearly beloved minister of wander and squander, the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Bennett), and while we do have resignations from the cabinet bench, I'll tell you one thing, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of those million-plus people in my region: I do not want this government ever to give consideration to giving us the like of the new Minister of Northern Affairs. We are bad and our state is not too quickly improving, but that we neither want nor I suspect can stand. Indeed, secession might be justified.

An hon. member: Be careful; they might give you Oriole.

Mr. Conway: Now what have we in the rest of this document? I don't want to belabour the point, and quite frankly I am pleased to see the government's ongoing commitment to the Anti-Inflation Board for reasons that have I think been made clear over the past few months in this assembly.

I am happy to see the government's commitment, and surely we all are, to the emphasis being placed on French-language education in this province and of that I would speak in more general terms later if time allows.

I am pleased to see the government's recognition of job creation. I am disappointed, of course, that there is absolutely nothing concrete to match the promise with performance.

I am pleased, I must say, with the statement on page 11 of Her Honour's address that "the impetus for effective economic development east of Metropolitan Toronto and eastern Ontario will be provided by significant government operations in selected areas. Details will be presented to the House early in the session." Well, we had those details earlier this week, and essentially I can offer my full support of that.

Particularly I am pleased to see the significant infusion of government employment into the heartland of eastern Ontario, particularly with the relocation of the government's Ontario Hospital Insurance programme offices in Kingston. While I can understand the reason for moving the revenue people into the Durham region and how that relates to the Toronto-centred region plan, I do hope that somewhere down the road the government will be impressed by the realities of far-eastern Ontario—for example, Pembroke, Cornwall and such centres of economic activity that have been identified as needing that kind of an infusion, and I would certainly encourage the hon. Treasurer to expedite to the extent that is possible his Go East strategy.

Indeed, it was with some irony that I listened to the Treasurer the other day and I was thinking it is surprising that we should have in this day and age Horace Greeley in reverse and that in fact it should come from the mouth of the hon. provincial Treasurer. It is interesting, I suppose, from at least an anecdotal point of view. The hon. Treasurer is a dear and close friend, I know, of all of us in this assembly.

Mr. Warner: Speak for yourself.

Mr. Conway: I am further concerned about the eastern Ontario economic aspect and I wanted very briefly this morning to highlight that Go East strategy and what I expect from that strategy, quite frankly.

Mr. Warner: You should be a minister.

Mr. Conway: I think it is high time this government decided to do something concrete for those areas, and I speak not only of the smaller communities in my riding but I can speak I think for my hon. friend from Cornwall (Mr. Samis) and other such far-eastern constituencies that have not received their fair share of the economic attention from this government. I only hope, as I said earlier, that places like Pembroke can expect in the future, and hopefully in the not-too-distant future, their share of this reallocation of Ontario government services.

As for the employment problems of eastern Ontario and Renfrew county, despite all the commissions and government agencies that are being appointed and will no doubt depreciate the unemployment concerns in a very selected part of the Ontario work force, I must say that the long and extended recess back home in Renfrew county certainly impressed upon me once again the extreme seriousness of the economic situation, particularly as it relates to job creation and unemployment.

[11:45]

Figures, for example, released not so long ago from the Pembroke UIC office indicate the following: In January of this year, 2,084 males and 1,349 females were registered at the Manpower centre in Pembroke as looking for employment. That week there were 12 jobs listed in that same employment office.

We have then a situation of unprecedented unemployment that can be validated and supported by a very considerable array of statistics, which I do not feel the need to go into today; but I do feel, from my own personal experience particularly over this past winter, that this government has a responsibility, not concretely addressed in specific programmes in this Throne Speech, to job creation, particularly in those areas of Ontario, and mine is an outstanding example for job creation, at least in the short term until the general economic climate, of North America particularly, improves.

Mr. di Santo: That's not good enough.

Mr. Conway: It may, in fact, as my friend from Downsview says, be not good enough. One particular area that concerned me in

the December weeks of this sitting was the fact that the ARDA commitment of this particular provincial government as it relates to my county and my region in terms of the job creation and the jobs involved, 1976-1977 as opposed to the previous year, there were considerably fewer jobs made available through that programme in Renfrew county this past winter as opposed to the previous winter. It was a clear and obvious cutback at a most inappropriate time.

While it is easy for us all to lay whatever, and I must say justifiable, blame we might like at the doorstep of the federal Minister of Finance and the federal government, this assembly has its own responsibilities in that regard. This Throne Speech has not done very much, particularly in eastern Ontario, to encourage the serious employment requirements of which we are all keenly aware.

I want to say, as many predecessors in this debate have said—and I speak with a very peculiar sense of concern in this regard, and it relates to the serious crisis we now have in terms of unemployment in the young persons category, that category between 16 and 29—as I say, I have a special concern, both because it is to that age group that I belong and because this business of which I am now a participant makes me always wary of what employment might await those of us who might be somehow disposed of by the vagaries of party politics.

Mr. MacDonald: You are a realist.

An hon. member: Every cloud does have a silver lining.

Mr. Moffatt: And become a pessimist overnight.

Mr. Conway: I must say, Mr. Speaker, that it is most important for a society and a political system and an economic system to pay particular attention to that category, because it is that category that is most dynamic, that is most formative. If that group is disappointed, disillusioned, frustrated and turned sour and cynical, I think we will reap a whirlwind down the road that will be serious indeed.

On another related topic, I suppose if nothing else disturbs me about our problems in La Belle Province it is that the federalists have lost that category, have lost the 16-to-25-to-35-year-olds, and I think that will have a very serious implication indeed. In this province, in economic terms I think that is extremely important that we pay par-

ticular attention to job creation for young people. I must say in the strongest possible language that I can use in this august assembly that the insulting remarks of the Prime Minister, not so very long ago and not so very far away, as to what graduates from our post-secondary institutions might and should do in the light of these circumstances are both flippant and totally unacceptable on the strongest possible grounds. I would disagree and, in fact, disparage the position and the remarks in particular.

Mr. Kerrio: We're freer than you guys are.

Mr. Moffatt: He is a Liberal Prime Minister.

Mr. Warner: That's what the democratic principle is all about.

Mr. Conway: What then, Mr. Speaker, with all due non-partisan respect, do we have in terms of a comment on this Speech from the Throne? Well, to be sure, our colleagues and my friends—if I might be so loose as to call you that, sir—in Her Majesty's loyal opposition, offered, I thought with no little bit of attention to the peculiar hypocrisies which they and sometimes they alone can muster, an interesting comment. I was impressed. I must say I was impressed when I watched my television set on Tuesday of last week, having regard to the statement which, in economic terms, goes on at great length to talk about how important the anti-inflation programme is to the economic health and well-being of this province, in particular as it is referred to in this Throne Speech, and all the other comments. I was very interested, having particular regard to that, to see my good friend from Scarborough West reported, visually and orally, on the televisions of Ontario that night saying to the effect that indeed, "This is great, minority government is working, and there is not one thing in that document which," I think if I can quote him roughly, "inspires any anger in my heart."

Mr. Reed: He's the world's greatest flip-flop artist.

Mr. Conway: I thought that was a very interesting statement, made only more interesting when the next day I picked up some of the provincial press to read, "The official opposition move want of confidence in the government." I think that is some comment upon the anger in their heart—

Mr. Reed: It was his greatest flip-flop.

Mr. Ruston: He can recheck his line.

Mr. Conway: —because that want of confidence certainly does not dovetail or relate in any way to the position taken by their esteemed leader the preceding day.

So we have this two-page statement issued, I guess late last week. It's interesting, to be sure. It is an interesting testament to the age-old if nostalgic nostrums that call for the imminent creation of the Co-operative Commonwealth. It is in its own way a reinforcement of motherhood and apple pie. It is, I think, a significant comment on many things about which I can express some support. But it is, as I would be wont to say, transparent in its political character, and I think and I know it will be treated by the majority in this House as in fact it should be.

Just one comment on subsection (d) of section 1, actually, if I can refer to it as such: The first part of the paper calls for an intensive programme of secondary and tertiary manufacturing based on our resource sector. I just picked that out this afternoon or this morning, because of your particular interest, Mr. Speaker, in that kind of comment. I wonder what an embellishment of that sentence might have to mean for the resource sector to which I am so closely and personally related. I hope and pray that it has no nationalizing implications. I hope it doesn't.

Mr. Moffatt: Are you opposed to it?

Mr. Conway: To be sure I am opposed to nationalization of our resource sector, and I know my friend from Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) is as well.

Mr. Moffatt: Goodness gracious; leave it all to the Americans.

Mr. Conway: As I say, the nostalgic nostrums calling for the Co-operative Commonwealth—it is nice to have them around but it's obviously not a significant comment in political terms at this point in time.

As far as my response as a member of this assembly is concerned, I do think, as I said earlier, that this is in fact a testament to the workings of minority government. We all know what the real issues are in terms of the spring of 1977. I think we have a document that is, if not specific, at least suggestive, and I as one member of this assembly am quite prepared and quite anxious to get on with the job of pursuing the legislative programme that is talked about in this 29-page document.

Mr. Davison: We will have an election.

Mr. Conway: My colleague from Hamilton Centre makes some tangential reference to a division, something about going to the polls.

Well, as a practising party politician I must say that I am not insensitive to elections. I have said in this assembly before, and I probably will continue to say in the future, that when you have my kind of personal mandate you probably are more sensitive than most to the imminence and possible result of an election. But unlike my friends to the right—

Mr. McKessock: We are to the left.

Mr. Conway: —who are to the left—

Mr. McKessock: Who are right.

Mr. Conway: Well, it depends of whom you speak—

Mr. McKessock: You would never know.

Mr. Conway: I'm sure my hon. friends from Lake Nipigon and Cornwall, for example, might indeed differ in their ideological perspectives from my good and hon. friend from Downsview.

Mr. Reed: I should hope so.

Mr. Conway: To say nothing of the moderating impact of these sunny days as to how they relate to our friend the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Warner: You left me out.

Mr. Conway: I speak only of that which is relevant, my good friend.

To the extent that we have economic problems in eastern Ontario, I wanted to speak today of the one particular offering that we have had since the appointment of my good friend from Renfrew South to the parliamentary secretaryship for Natural Resources. The one specific commitment that we have had from this government as to our economic future—and I must stop there, Mr. Speaker, and introduce a personal, non-partisan note:

Since we last gathered in December 1976, we in eastern Ontario have had two or three social notes which deserve the commendation of one and all in this assembly. As we all know, my good friend from Renfrew South and our good friend from Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett) have, or are about to enter into nuptials. I think we should certainly congratulate them in absentia for such an initiative. Indeed, as I was saying to my good friend from Renfrew South, perhaps, I shall learn the ways and means in the not so distant future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You want to watch—it may be contagious.

Mr. Conway: I must say, Mr. Speaker, with all the candour that I can muster, we Liberals have a very great and growing concern about marital relations in these trying times of the spring of 1977.

Mr. Warner: What are you going to do about it?

Mr. Ruston: Give 'em hell.

Mr. Conway: What have we had? Well, we've had an interesting statement from the Minister of Industry and Tourism made in February 1977. Eastern Ontario, as I have said—and I will say as long as I am here—is an area of real economic disparity. We have not had from this government our fair share of economic opportunity, despite the blandishments of my friend from Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) who was going on at some length last night about the province of opportunity, because for eastern Ontario and for northern Ontario this has not been the province of opportunity.

Mr. Warner: It's got worse since you came here.

Mr. Conway: I must say that the offering we have had in the past nine or 10 weeks does not encourage me one whit about the future. On February 14, I believe, in the community of Arnprior we had convened, at the leisure of the county council and the Minister of Industry and Tourism, a major press conference which I'm sure had no political import—a press conference that produced for us all the panacea that we were to have. It was called Timbertown. Timbertown, for those of you who may not be yet aware of this significant initiative, is an \$8 million to \$10 million project, funded by the private sector to create 300 to 400 jobs in the tourist sector on a 600-acre site, the southeastern corner of Renfrew county; a site that will re-create the historical lumber-timber past of my forebears.

Well, it's interesting. First of all, we have, of course, nothing concrete, and that is not new. We have a statement that it will take \$8 million or \$10 million of start-up capital, all of which must come from the private sector, all of which must be in place before we can begin, all of which contribute if completely put in place—300 to 400 jobs in the tourist sector, 80 per cent of which are seasonal employment and to that extent will solve absolutely none of the deep-seated economic difficulties that we have had, and no doubt will continue to have.

[12:00]

Timbertown: I am a young man—a young person, a young member—and I quite frankly expect to be an old, old man before Timbertown etches its majesty across the southern sky of Renfrew county. It is a pipe dream that only this government could concoct. It is a political sop yet again, dragged before the good and honourable people of Renfrew county, no doubt in this pre-election circumstance; that I hope will succeed. To the extent that I hope it will succeed, I must say I do not support it conceptually, because it does absolutely nothing to redress those serious economic problems in the job-creation sector of our local economy.

After all, Mr. Speaker, consider for one moment a project that, if completed—and I am just fascinated at the suggestion that the private sector is going to cough up \$8 million for this kind of peripheral tourist complex in eastern Ontario. I must say that it is not my recollection or my information, that we have ever, either publicly or privately, certainly in the recent past, attracted \$8 million or \$10 million of private capital for any other project. In these economically difficult and trying times I am fascinated at the prospect of bringing such capital to our area for such a project.

If this government is capable of such attraction, if the newly-married Minister of Industry and Tourism can in fact produce that \$8 million or \$10 million, he is a wonderkind of something I never imagined. I wish him well in his endeavour.

The land assembly policy for which this government is famous—and we have all kinds of specific examples of this in the not too distant past—the land assembly policy that they entertained in this Timbertown project is really fascinating.

You know, Mr. Speaker, it has been talked about for a great length of time, this Timbertown. The question was put, over the past year, as to where it was going to be, which local community could expect the largess next door. Well of course I asked questions to this effect in this House, of my friends opposite; and in one of his rare flashes of parliamentary brilliance, the Minister of Industry and Tourism indicated to me we could not announce the site until we had some measure of control over the 600 acres involved.

That made an awful lot of sense to me, as a quiet country boy with not a great deal of business experience. It struck me as sensible and sound that you would not announce the site of this kind of a project without some control, in terms of options or indeed purchase. I believe in early November 1976, in

response to a question that I put in this assembly, the hon. Minister of Industry and Tourism said exactly that; and I proceeded on those grounds, Mr. Speaker.

So what happened? In Arnprior, in February, 1977, but three months later, my good friends opposite have the courage, the effrontery and the candour, to stand before us and say: "Yes, Timbertown will be located on 600 acres in Horton township near the little hamlet of Castleford."

My first question, Mr. Speaker, is: "Well thank you very much; did you have any trouble optioning the land, or getting control of the land?" To which there came a rather tame and lame response: "Well unfortunately, we have no options, we have no control. We will not proceed if there is in fact any speculation." That latter was a caveat put well in advance.

That is a concept of convolution and land assembly that only this government is capable of; and I hope it has not seriously compromised the future of this project. That is just one small example of the offerings that this government has had in terms of economic opportunity for eastern Ontario. Before I get off the topic, I must say that the whole project, of course, has been shot through with local and provincial Conservative politics in a way that I would thoroughly expect. But we had what I thought was an interesting admission of how politics in government are controlled and operated in my part of this great province.

Of course, there was a great debate about where this project would be located; and that does not have undue regard to the constituencies involved. I happen to represent the northern part of that constituency—and, of course, I am not a government member—and the southern half of the riding is, in fact, represented by a government member.

I would like to read into the record an article—and, quite frankly, it has not been refuted—which appeared in the Renfrew Mercury on February 16, 1977.

"Paul Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew South, was instrumental in having the Timbertown project located in the southern part of the county. Mr. Yakabuski said that last year he heard reports—he heard reports!—"that the tourist attraction was being located in the Petawawa area." In other words, in North Renfrew. "After checking with the ministers involved and not receiving a denial, he composed a letter that said he would leave the party if the decision was not changed."

Mr. Kerrio: I thought they would jump at the chance.

Mr. Gaunt: Now there's a threat for you.

Mr. Conway: That makes the member for London North (Mr. Shore) look statesmanlike.

"Mr. Yakabuski said that 'the letter said if the attraction was not in the south part of the county, he would ask the Speaker to re-arrange the seating plan to enable him to sit as an independent until the end of his term.'" I was not quite sure that he hadn't been an independent for the last 15 years or whatever, but he said that would be his course.

"He explained that he thought it would be unfair to have the Timbertown project located at the north end of the county" and so on. Interesting. Perhaps not that significant but, if nothing else, picayune in its interest and suggestive as to how politics operates in dear old Renfrew county.

Mr. Gregory: Too bad the north hasn't got a good member like the south has.

Mr. Conway: Well, the member for Mississauga East comments about the government offering in this regard. I must say that while it may be many things, it is at least historic and consistent, because that's how the pork barrel has been rolled down Renfrew county and the Ottawa Valley for lo, these many years.

Mr. Ruston: Give 'em hell.

Mr. Conway: The hon. member should just make sure, though, that he does not lie in its wake, because it could be a flattening prospect if he is so unfortunate as to reap the whirlwind.

I have been cynical and, I must say, I have probably been uncomplimentary in some of the things I have had to say about the way this government has made appointments in eastern Ontario. But they made a good appointment yesterday. I just want to digress to congratulate my good friend, the Minister of Agriculture and Food, for his appointment to Ellard Powers from Beachburg to the Farm Income Stabilization Commission.

Mr. Gregory: You just made it suspect.

Mr. Conway: Of his politics I am surely not aware, but I must say there is no agricultural personality in Renfrew county, and indeed in Ontario, save the member for York South, who has the competence, the commitment and the personal background enabling him to make a real and genuine offering to this important commission. I congratulate the government for its consideration and good sense in making that appointment.

Mr. Gregory: We will start to worry about him now.

Mr. Conway: A non-partisan I am not.

Mr. Gregory: He has begun to be suspect.

Mr. Conway: I must say just one other thing: The election of September 1975 has had all kinds of interesting and salutary effects for those of us in Renfrew county. We have had a flypast of Tory cabinet ministers that would impress the most urbane southern Ontarian. The only junket that we have yet to expect will surely come with the member for London North and his travelling committee on small business. That's the only impressive representative opposite we have not yet had.

We have had the Premier, we have had the Treasurer, we were going to have the Minister of Housing—unfortunately he got lost, not realizing that Pembroke wasn't Perth—we were going to have the Minister of Agriculture and Food in the next week or so. We had the Minister of Education, invited somehow, Mr. Speaker, surprisingly at the explicit invitation of the Progressive Conservative candidate, who arranged an official meeting with the local boards of education.

These Tories in eastern Ontario are surprising me, because as we all know Bill Kelly has a bit of money. I hear he's making low-interest loans to needy opposition business because his fund is so flowing over. But the Minister of Education came to Pembroke and through the Conservative association did his official business, seriously for a moment, as disgusting in its import and implications as that is.

I was glad to see him there, and I know the local boards of education were delighted to see him there and they were very happy and anxious and pleased with the opportunity to meet him. But the fact that this government felt the need to arrange such a meeting with the duly elected local school boards through the nominated Progressive Conservative candidate is I think disgusting in its implications.

I think it is absolutely acceptable that the Minister of Education in his capacity come as a Conservative and do Conservative business and I applaud him for that initiative. I am glad to see and I respect totally the very serious and ongoing efforts made by my good friend the local Progressive Conservative candidate in his ongoing efforts to displace me. That is an initiative which I know gentlemen opposite can applaud. But I do not accept the political implications of con-

fusing the official business of that ministry, of my government and of the people of Ontario with the local pre-election antics of the Conservative Party.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We will fix that next time.

Mr. Conway: I'll tell you one thing, Mr. Speaker, that the election of 1975, in proving as it did the status of non-Conservative membership in this assembly, has gone a very significant way and distance in taking the real and legitimate concern of eastern Ontario off the Conservative back benches where they have reposed for, lo, these 34 years. I'll tell you that will be a major issue in the next election in Renfrew North and I don't mind being parochial for a moment in saying that.

While I personally can respect the personal contributions made by my colleagues opposite—and I have a great deal of respect for the contributions made by many of their long standing members from eastern Ontario who are with us this morning, and I am not ashamed nor afraid to make that confession—no region has been as good politically to this government and to this party over the last three decades as eastern Ontario. It has consistently, prior to 1975, provided a bulk of 20 or 25 seats that have sustained that government and that party through good times and bad, and what have we got in return? We have been given a diet of neglect, more sops and morsels than any other region, perhaps northern Ontario included. Because at least they've had a strong regional cabinet spokesperson over the last few years, and with all due respect, eastern Ontario continues to be without a strong regional spokesman, though I have some hope that the new Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Norton) might begin to fill the void.

The ministers from Carleton and Ottawa South and formerly from Carleton-Grenville are no answer in articulate political terms to the problems of which I speak this morning. As an opposition member at this point in time I am not afraid to say that a major question in our election debate whenever that may occur will be the whole question of this diet of neglect which we have been force-fed in the past 34 years will be a very significant part of the public debate if and when it should occur in the not too distant future.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude this morning with a reference or two—

Mr. Haggerty: Keep going.

Mr. Gaunt: More, more.

Mr. Ruston: Give 'em hell.

[12:15]

Mr. Conway: —with a reference or two to what we might call the Canada and Canadian question. I do this for a variety of reasons, one of them is self-interest in the question.

I was invited, I was intrigued, I was interested, I was impressed—I was sometimes depressed—by my distinguished friend, the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) last night, who truly, and in his inimitable style, entertained those of us who were here with a speech on the Canadian question. I agree with my friends here who would say that we must not overdo the question, and we must not, Mr. Speaker. I hope that all members of all parties will be sensitive to the politics of that question, that none of us would ever feel the need, for personal political reasons or gain, to prostitute ourselves, our Parliament, our process and our community, for whatever personal gain politically there might be out of this fascinatingly complex and emotional issue.

But because I come from the Ottawa Valley, because when I look out of my riding office window I see La Belle Province across the river, because in my community of Pembroke and in my riding there is a substantial French-Canadian involvement and representation; I do feel that it is incumbent on me this morning to take a few moments to express some very personal views on this question. I have done so in the past, perhaps somewhat intemperately in my first speech here 18 months ago, but I wanted to talk this morning about the question very briefly.

My friend from Scarborough Centre last night spoke in a way and in a style that was truly reminiscent of what D'Arcy McGee must have been all about. There was an Irish madness in it all that was truly something to behold.

There was, Mr. Speaker—and I don't believe you were here—for a time last night something of an Irish conspiracy involving the members for Scarborough Centre, Lakeshore (Mr. Lawlor), Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook), and only parenthetically myself.

The member for Scarborough Centre spoke consistently of the national dream, and he spoke of the national fervour, and this great concept of Canada and Confederation; and I wanted just to footnote some of his comments because they were, very honestly, very well put, to the extent that they were coherent and sometimes they weren't, and I must differ with my hon. friend to that ex-

tent. But he made some extremely significant and salient points last night, that I hope were not lost on those of us who, while heckling, were listening in part.

He talked of a national dream, Mr. Speaker. You know I'm impressed by this country and its national dream. Not so very long ago the national dream was, I think, very interestingly popularized before us all by our good friend Pierre Berton.

Think for a moment about our national dream. Can you think of another country that has a national dream that's a railroad? Think of it. Our national dream is the Canadian Pacific railroad; and I think that's a symbolic reflection of the society and the economy that Confederation anticipated.

Think about the national dream that my friend spoke of last night, and I would suggest that is really in the essence of what the national dream, as Pierre Berton has said and we have all read, is essentially all about. Take that national dream, the railroad; pretty mechanical business, isn't it? Pretty transcontinental in its dimension; but pretty serious in its implication, both economically and regionally.

If that be our national dream, think for a moment that that national dream has been the political sore point of at least four provinces since its very inception. To the extent that we have a national dream, we're told it's the CPR; and I'll tell you west of North Bay you cannot find one item in our past or present that inspires such antipathy, such genuine disgust, and sometimes hatred, as the mention of that national dream. Just a small point when we wax eloquent about our dreams.

I take a great interest in the debate today on this Canadian question and I was impressed again by some of the comments of my friend from Scarborough Centre last night when he talked in this regard. There's an awful lot of complaint this very week about Monsieur Laurin's white paper on language in La Belle Province.

It's interesting. Before we talk about the white paper I wanted to reflect just for a moment on the irony of an even more interesting debate that continues this very day on the economic balance sheet of Confederation.

Monsieur Tremblay's statement of about a week ago to the effect that the real good reason, economically, or the real good reason why Quebec should get out of Confederation is because, taking as a beginning and end point, 1961 and 1975, Confederation as an arrangement has cost the people of

Quebec—if my memory serves me correctly—his 225-page report indicated a \$4.3 billion deficit.

In other words, we're being told by this government in Quebec today that the reason for Quebec to get out of Confederation is because it is costing too much money and, in fact, the money is not being spent locally but is being spent—I think he indicated to the benefit of the rest of Canada, but particularly to Ontario.

There is a great and fascinating irony about that point, Mr. Speaker, because whether you are aware of the fact or not, almost to the syllable, that was the very reason why Ontario wanted and ultimately got Confederation in the first place.

I wanted to quote today, very briefly—and I'll finish that if I can for a second—let none of us here forget, if we have not already made ourselves acquainted with the rather significant fact, particularly when we talk about the national dream, that for Ontario Confederation was an explicit act of political and cultural separation. There was very little of a dream involved.

And the arguments put—and I'm going to put one of them very briefly this morning because I think that while it is historical in its suggestion it is very relevant in terms of its implication. The most important, I would argue, father of Confederation—and I don't want to sound political or partisan in this respect—with all due regard to Macdonald and Cartier, the really significant character in the whole proposition was the founder of the *Toronto Globe*, George Brown. Without George Brown's participation there would have been no Confederation at that point in time.

Having regard to what I have just said about Confederation and about what the Quebec government is now telling us as to why Quebec should opt out on those economic grounds, I want to quote from the Confederation debate of February, 1865, and the comments made by the senior Ontario representative, George Brown. See if this doesn't ring relevant today. He said:

"But, Mr. Speaker, the second feature of this Confederation scheme, as a remedial measure, is that it removes to a large extent the injustice of which Upper Canada has complained in financial matters. We in Upper Canada have complained that though we paid into the public treasury more than three-fourths of the whole revenue, we had less control over the system of taxation and expenditure of the public moneys than the people of Lower Canada. Well, sir, the scheme in your hands remedies that."

Remember that, just remember that when you get exercised and excited about Monsieur Tremblay. Remember, when you talk of a national dream, that Confederation, as we now have it presented to us, was not a beginning of something entirely new; that the Canada to which we now address ourselves and which we very justifiably want to protect, was not a new nationality born of wedlock. It was rather an admission of failure. It was, quite frankly, a compromise constitution built out of obvious failure and dead-lock.

Confederation in 1867 was for Ontario, two things: It was hoped to be an end to French and Quebec dominance and, quite frankly and maybe more important, it was an effort to get our greedy little paws on western Canada and to exploit it to the hilt.

I think my friend from Durham East (Mr. Moffatt) says with some import that it was one historian's view—most historians would probably agree with me to a large extent, and I just want my hon. friends to remember that—that insofar as the Confederation of 1867 is concerned, it was not a question of a great national dream; it was really a product of a very frustrated and expansionary Ontario mentality and, quite honestly, it was a mentality that was very tired of Lower Canada.

Interesting, too, was the fact that Confederation was the fifth constitutional arrangement over 107 years. It was an admission that the previous constitution had failed abjectly, obviously and totally. When we talk in the upcoming debate, as I hope we will, about our Canada and about our national dream, I would suggest going back and reading this, small, cheap, document.

If I can quote from one other contribution in that document, because I think it has a very significant relevance to us here today, the most eloquent speech made in that pretty important debate came from an English-speaking farmer; and I know my colleagues here will certainly appreciate that. He was the member for Brougham, and he said that the Confederation scheme was a total disaster. He went on to outline many of the reasons.

I want my colleagues, as members of a provincial assembly, to bear with me while I read briefly from one of the arguments he put as to why the Confederation of Macdonald and Cartier was bound to fail. He says—and I quote:

"But there is another result about which there can be no question. The provincial governments will in a quiet way want money,

and the provincial legislators and people will want it yet more. Grants for roads and bridges, for schools, for charities, for salaries, for contingencies of the legislative bodies"—he anticipated Wintario—"for all manner of ends they will be wanting money. And where is it to come from?"

"Whether the constitution of the provincial executive savours at all of responsible government or not, be sure it will not be anxious to bring itself more under control of the Legislature or to make itself more odious than it can help, and the easiest way for provincial legislators to get money will be from the central government.

"I am not sure either but that most members of the provincial legislatures will make it that way the best. Gentlemen will go to their constituents provincially with an easy conscience, telling them: True, we had not much to do in the provincial Legislature, and you need not ask very closely what else we did, but I tell you what, we got the federal government to increase the subvention to our province by five cents a head and see what this gives you—\$500 to that road, \$1,000 to that charity, so much here and so much there. That we have done and we have done well.

"I am afraid [said Duncan in concluding] the provincial constituencies, Legislatures and governments will all show a most calf-like appetite for the milking of this one magnificent government cow."

I want to conclude by thanking my colleagues for their forbearance in this regard, because it might be less than interesting to them to listen to a student out of water waxing historical about these alleged irrelevancies, if indeed they judge them that; but there is an awful lot to remember when we talk about our beloved Canada and our Confederation.

[12:30]

It is all too easy for us to walk through our ridings and talk very euphemistically about what it is we might have had and what it is we should like in the future; because separatism does not owe its origin to the province of Quebec. Ontario, in economic circumstances, and in constitutional arguments, proceeded from 1867 to lay a beautiful basis for the arguments which will now be put by the province of Quebec through its separatist government. Separatist governments have prospered not so much in Quebec as they have in western Canada and, certainly, in Nova Scotia. I must say, apologetically, that the reform tradition from which I flow must bear a very significant measure of responsibility for the

problems that our constitution has faced in its evolution.

But, remember, colleagues in the assembly, it is one thing to talk about the national dream, but I caution you to remember, and to take a serious look at what the national dream of 1867 was all about. When we talk about the white paper on French-language rights in the province of Quebec today, there is a great effort, very calculatingly put by Monsieur Laurin, as to what has happened in Ontario and Manitoba. But we're not talking about a new concept of minority rights as a reflection of language. Provinces other than Quebec have minority rights relating to education.

You can make an exceptionally good argument that those are the rights not of language but of denomination, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, it is interesting that my neighbouring county across the river, in Quebec-Pontiac county—which is significantly anglophone, does have an English-speaking school board that is not public. But that's not the Pontiac English-speaking school board. As I was saying to some of my colleagues yesterday, there's a little bit of significance in the fact that it's called the Pontiac Protestant School Board. A small, rather significant comment about how minority rights began and how they have evolved.

As members of this assembly, we must pay cognizance and respect to the fact that language rights are important, and I am delighted to see them commented upon in this Throne Speech. But language rights are not always a question of minority rights; they are to be considered, both in past and in present—and I'm sure they will be in this upcoming debate with Ottawa and Quebec City—as a matter of minority rights. Interestingly, they will become, I think, a matter of provincial right. I know our friends in Quebec City are sitting there waiting, just waiting—as were the governments in Manitoba 75 or 85 years ago—for the federal government to disallow a provincial Act.

Canada is a frailty that is not to be forgotten. It has always been so, and I suspect it will continue.

I just want to end—and I will end, after taking more than my time—by using a statement which I like to use in this regard. It grows out of the Confederation debates, again, as to the Canadian nationality, the national dream, or whatever. I want to emphasize, yet again, that we, as Ontarians, really were the architects of Confederation; we were the aggressive reason for Confederation.

I want you all, in your own way, to examine the cause at that time. There was not a great mandate for nationalism; it has never been so. I suppose we had been beleaguered with the nationalisms of other communities. But it has not been our peculiar role in society to have had it so.

It is a very difficult, ongoing, and sometimes not very heroic effort, to build a national community out of two groups that have neither a common cultural experience nor—in the beginning or now—a common language or religion. It is, in fact, a bilingual, bi-cultural experiment that will always be difficult to maintain. It will always be essentially fragile in its composition. I'm prepared to accept that and to live with that.

To conclude, I would suggest to you an interesting comment made by a Quebecker—not French-Canadian-born but a French-born Quebecker—who was Protestant in his religion, which was far more important then than now, and he felt, like Christopher Duncan, that the Confederation scheme was a not-too-worthwhile project. With tongue in cheek he spoke very eloquently of the frailty of the Canadian nationality and the national dream that was being so well-espoused by many of his colleagues and he suggested a symbol that would best comment upon the national dream. He said, and I quote:

"I propose the adoption of the rainbow as our national emblem. By the endless variety of its tints, the rainbow will give an excellent idea of the diversity of races, religions, sentiments, and interests of the different parts of our Canadian Confederation. By its slender and elongated form, the rainbow would effect a perfect representation of the geographical configuration of this Confederation. By its lack of consistence, an image without substance, the rainbow would represent aptly the solidity of our Confederation. An emblem we must have, for every great empire has one. Let us adopt a rainbow."

My colleagues, our challenge is the challenge of 1867 and it will be the challenge of three generations in the future, to make this national dream, of whatever particular and peculiar variant, more than a rainbow, more than an image without substance. I thank you for your forbearance.

Mr. di Santo: I rise in support of our amendment to the Throne Speech, because I think it was illustrated by the leader of my party that the programme presented by the government to this Legislature, even though it contains important points that we agree with, doesn't respond essentially to the basic

problems that this province and Canada are faced with at this time. I mean the economic problems.

Yesterday a columnist said that the Conservatives have been a party of economic boom, but the present situation proves that this government and this party is unable to deal with the issues that we are faced with today, in 1977, because they are not equipped to deal with the economy in a deep crisis like today. The situation in Ontario is bad and growing worse. For the first time the increase in unemployment in Ontario last December exceeded the rest of Canada. There were, in February, 316,000 people unemployed in this province, and the Conference Board of Canada yesterday predicted that unemployment in Ontario will be in the range of seven per cent during 1977 and that the growth will be three per cent. So much for the predictions of the Treasurer of this province last year, who predicted that the growth will be about five per cent.

This is quite clearly intolerable. Unemployment of seven per cent is a needless waste of human resources and industrial capacity. According to a new ECD report, Canada's economic growth this year will still average three per cent at most. Even countries like Norway, Greece and Finland will surpass Canada's growth in 1977.

We are, Mr. Speaker, quite clearly in a situation which is critical, even though this government doesn't realize it. It doesn't do any good for the Treasurer of this province to use trite Tory rhetoric portraying us and the socialist policies we put forth as one of the causes that brought England to its present condition.

I want to quote what the federal Conservative critic, Mr. Sinclair Stevens said the other day in the Commons: "With a million unemployed, comparable to the entire working population of the Toronto region, Canada had the worst record among industrial nations for unemployment and one of the worst in the world for inflation."

"In the past two years this country's current account trade deficit was higher than any nation in the world. In fact, it was higher than the total deficit position of the United States, Germany, Japan, France, Italy and the United Kingdom put together. Those six nations represent approximately 50 per cent of the world's wealth, while we have less than three per cent. This country can pretend no longer that we are prosperous."

This is the sad situation in which Canada is today, in which Ontario is today, after 34 years of Tory government.

I should also add, Mr. Speaker, that the preoccupation of both federal and provincial governments with wage controls and the phoney Anti-Inflation Board has brought the economy to a standstill. Prices to the consumers are rising despite the fact that officially the inflation rate is down. Just yesterday we were informed that the cost of living went up again last month because oil prices and food prices went up, both of them not controlled by the Anti-Inflation Board. As you know, Mr. Speaker, for a time lower food prices and the international situation contributed to lowering of the inflation rate; however, the inflation rate could have been further lowered if the Anti-Inflation Board had dealt with prices and profits.

As it is, the major sources of inflation have been exempt from the control of the Anti-Inflation Board—as I said, food, energy and housing. The main preoccupation of the Anti-Inflation Board has been with trimming wages. Other countries have brought down inflation to a greater extent than we have without controls. The United States, for one, has today a lower rate of inflation and a lower rate of unemployment.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that it is much more difficult for this government to deal with unemployment than with inflation. In the last 18 months that I have been in this House we heard, time and time again, the ministers, the Premier and the Treasurer blame everybody else for inflation; the international situation, the federal government. But to deal with unemployment in Ontario today means to deal with the failure of this government to enact policies in Ontario directed at having economic growth which would provide this province with enough jobs and which, essentially, would avoid the situation we are facing now in this province.

[12:45]

For more than 30 years during which this government has been in power, it has chosen an industrial strategy with results which appear every day as a startling failure. After three decades of Tory rule in Ontario, we have an economic structure which is proving to be weaker and weaker as time goes by.

As a part of the branch-plant economy developed within the federal framework, this government has been unable to develop a sound manufacturing sector. Worse than that, this government has developed the service and finance sector to a proportion which is not only unacceptable but is becoming dangerous. One of the Treasurer's economists pointed out last year that in Ontario the

manufacturing sector occupies only 36 per cent of workers, while the service sector has been inflated to 55 per cent. In a modern economy this is not only unsound but it is becoming increasingly dangerous, because the people who are producing are becoming less and less important in our economic structure while the number of people employed in the service and finance sector is increasing, which means we are consuming more and are producing less.

The manufacturing sector is a basic sector in every modern economy and that is where this government has failed more than anywhere else. Today, it is sad to say, we are unable to develop the manufacturing sector in the province of Ontario for two basic reasons: We don't have enough investments to be made in our economy in order to develop it, and the foreign investments that we receive are needed to finance our foreign debts.

In 1976, in fact, our debt was \$9.2 billion. What does that mean for the economy of this province? It means that in order to repay that debt, we should increase our exports by \$500 million a year. Quite obviously we are unable to do that. Since we cannot increase our exports to that extent, we are forced to re-finance our debt with the money that comes to Canada for investments. One of the big borrowers in Ontario is Ontario Hydro, whose consolidated debt in 1976 was \$7,262 million. Along with Quebec Hydro, Ontario Hydro is probably the biggest borrower on the North American market.

The consequences of this situation are that New York bankers are dictating our economic and financial policies; they can pull out short-term loans and, if that happens, the Canadian dollar will fall. This is obviously a prospect that neither the federal government nor the provincial government can accept in Canada. This is one of the reasons why the provincial government so cynically accepted and endorsed the Anti-Inflation Board, which was the result of our financial situation toward the New York market. In fact, the logic of the Anti-Inflation Board is that if controls are removed then what most likely will happen is that workers will have higher settlements, and if workers have higher settlements then they will be able to buy more durable goods like houses, refrigerators, cars, et cetera, and then Canada must increase imports and, therefore, must increase our foreign debt. Absurd as it is, Mr. Speaker, unemployment costs less to Canada than to have people employed in the non-manufacturing sector. This is the basic reason why

the provincial government is endorsing the anti-inflation programme at this time when everybody knows that it is not working, that it is not reducing inflation, that it is increasing unemployment in Canada and in the province of Ontario.

Mr. Kerrio: Your party supported the AIB.

Mr. di Santo: What the member for Niagara Falls thinks it is worth is quite irrelevant in view of the figures that we have and in view of the figures that I mentioned related to the unemployment in the province of Ontario.

There are two more reasons why this government is unable to deal with the problems of job creation and the economy in general in the province of Ontario. One of the reasons is the price of oil. This morning the Minister of Energy (Mr. Taylor) told us how he opposed a new oil price increase and, of course, we agree with that. We actually urged the government last year to oppose any oil price increase, but this is a very late decision made by the government which is following a policy that is lasting since 1973, a policy which is wrong, which has been proved wrong, that we opposed all along.

I want to mention for the record the position taken by the Premier of this province when, in March 1974, he participated in a conference of the Premiers where an increase in the price of oil was decided. On March 28, 1974, he told the House:

"In spite of this cost which will have to be faced by consumers in Ontario, I am convinced that we have preserved for Canada the benefits of this country's vast energy resources. The increased price will permit rapid development of new energy resources; the lower-than-world price will maintain a competitive advantage for Canadian industry; consumers in the eastern provinces will be protected from the high cost of imported oil, the western provinces will have a base on which to diversify their economic development, Canadians will have a stable oil price for at least a year"—and he was right in that case because the next year the price went up again—"while the rest of the world faces uncertainty, and Canada will be spared a potentially divisive constitutional confrontation. I think yesterday was a reasonable solution for this province and Canada."

I think that day was the start of the troubles we are now faced with and, of course, the Premier of this province didn't realize at that time that we were going toward increases in oil prices that are now reaching the world

level. So his assumption was wrong and, of course, the consequences that we are having now are dreadful.

The provincial government until this time has always endorsed oil price increases. Last year, as you remember, Mr. Speaker, the then Minister of Energy (Mr. Timbrell) suggested a blended price which was a laughable proposition and was rejected. As a result of that conference we had a price increase which cost Ontario between 45,000 and 50,000 jobs. In fact according to the projections of the Ministry of the Treasurer of Ontario, and in particular Mr. Clifford Jutlah who is an economist with Treasury, we lose 7,400 jobs for each dollar of oil price increase; and if we go to the world level of \$11 per barrel in Ontario we lose 45,000 to 50,000 jobs.

Of course, we have this situation in Canada, and Canada is the only oil producing nation in this situation—not even Venezuela and Mexico are adopting this kind of crazy policy—we have this situation because the federal government is accepting all the company positions on cost of oil per barrel, cost of exploration, drilling and marketing of oil. There is no way that the government of Canada, and perhaps it's the only government in the world in this position, can become equipped to ascertain, on its own, the cost of a barrel of oil.

The same thing happens for gas. I have to point out to the House that this government

has never taken a public position on the construction of the northern pipeline. I think this is extremely important for the province of Ontario, because if the northern pipeline were built, and we will get the figures in two weeks, the increase of the cost of gas will be terrific and Ontario will pay an unnecessary, gigantic amount of money because of the building of the pipeline.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, we have a surplus of gas. We are exporting, actually, one trillion cubic feet of gas to the United States, so there is no economic justification for the building of the pipeline. What we will have is a drainage of money which is needed for building the pipeline, money which is necessary for investments in southern Ontario. One of the results, if we build the northern pipeline, will be that there will be very little money left for investments and job creation in southern Ontario—in southern Canada, I should say rather, Mr. Speaker. The second negative consequence will be that the increase of the price of gas will produce an increase in the cost of products and therefore a less competitive position for Canadian industries, and therefore loss of jobs.

On motion by Mr. di Santo, the debate was adjourned.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Welch, the House adjourned at 1 p.m.

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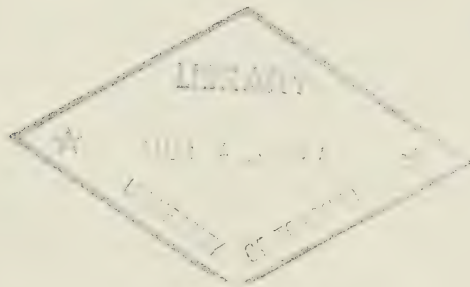
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Fourth Session, 30th Parliament

Tuesday, April 12, 1977

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, Q.C.

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 1977

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

RENT REVIEW

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, later today I will be introducing The Residential Premises Rent Review Amendment Act, 1977.

Mr. Angus: Also your resignation.

Mr. S. Smith: Is it a little messy?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I'm interested in the comments, Mr. Speaker, let them go.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister will continue with his statement.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The purpose of the bill is to extend the rent review programme until the scheduled end of the national anti-inflation programme. The amendments are also designed to simplify, clarify and make more equitable various procedures in the rent review process.

Mr. Lewis: Slower, slower, much slower. We want to savour it.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: As noted in the Speech from the Throne—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It rolls off the tongue with a certain amount of glibness, Mr. Speaker.

As noted in the Speech from the Throne, rent control acts as a negative force in the government's aim to create new rental units in significant numbers. However, the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) will soon announce the details of a programme to encourage rental construction in areas of low vacancies.

Currently, provincial co-operation with federal and municipal governments will continue in order to increase the amount of rental housing for senior citizens and low-

income families, and through the newly-merged AHOP/HOME programme to assist moderate-income families to buy their own homes, thereby freeing currently-occupied rental units.

The legislation will remain enforceable after December 31, 1978, for rent increases or orders extending beyond the expiry date. Also, applications and appeals for rent review, which are filed before the expiry date, will be heard and orders will be made after December 31, 1978.

Under the previous Act, any rent increases remained in effect for 12 months unless a landlord applied for and was granted a further increase within that time. Under the amendment, all increases of any amount, with or without an order, must remain in effect for one year from the effective date of the previous increase and no landlord may apply for a further increase during that year. This will prevent sudden rent increases when the Act expires.

A discontinuance of a service is not to be considered as a rent increase during such a 12-month period—

Mr. Moffatt: What?

Mrs. Campbell: What?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: —but tenants may continue to apply for rent reduction as compensation for such a discontinuance, as in the present Act.

An important new requirement is the obligation now placed on landlords to provide written information about rents and rental agreements if required by a rent review officer in the course of his or her dealing with applications.

New punishable offences have been defined and corporations guilty of offences may be fined up to \$25,000, while individual directors are subject to \$2,000 maximum fines upon conviction.

Other amendments in the bill are:

The maximum rent that may be charged pending an appeal to the board will now be the same as the rent chargeable pending a hearing before a rent review officer.

The notice that landlords must give to tenants justifying a rent increase may now be in writing in the same manner as under The Landlord and Tenant Act.

No order can be nullified on the ground of improper notice unless that point was raised at the rent review hearing. The rent review board will be empowered to review its own decisions when satisfied that serious error has occurred.

Where it can be shown that persons were unable to attend a rent review hearing because of circumstances beyond their control, they may apply to the board for permission to appeal. Formerly, non-attendance at the original hearing eliminated the right of appeal.

Many of these amendments should serve to improve the effectiveness of the programme as well as eliminate some of the irritants which have come to light during the first two years of its operation. Between now and December 31, 1978, the government will be putting forward for discussion a number of policy options which will lead eventually to a return to a free market in the Ontario rental industry.

Mr. Martel: Has the Premier (Mr. Davis) accepted your resignation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. Lewis: You know who the biggest irritant is, the biggest single irritant?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Yes, the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) who should be here today.

Mrs. Campbell: Call the minister to order.

Mr. Roy: That is a strange statement for a guy who was going to resign.

SUCCESSOR RIGHTS

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, later this afternoon I propose to introduce a bill entitled The Successor Rights Crown Transfers Act, 1977. This bill preserves the representation and bargaining rights or organizations representing employees employed in undertakings transferred from the Crown to other employers and in undertakings transferred from other employers to the Crown.

The bill provides for the determination of questions that may arise on such a transfer. Where a transfer is to an employer other than the Crown, the determinations are to be made by the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

Where the transfer is to the Crown, the determinations are to be made by the Ontario Public Service Labour Relations Tribunal. Where a trade union or council of trade unions is the certified bargaining agent in respect of an undertaking transferred to the Crown, the trade union or council of trade unions is required to qualify as an employee organization within the meaning of The Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act, 1972. Where an employee organization has representation rights in respect of an undertaking transferred from the Crown to another employer, the employee organization is required to qualify as a trade union or council of trade unions under The Labour Relations Act.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

FEDERAL GRANTS FOR FRENCH-LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

Mr. Lewis: I'd like to put a question to the Minister of Education, if I may, which, unaccustomed as though this may be, Mr. Speaker, is designed to elicit information rather than bestir controversy.

What exactly did the minister say on CBC radio this morning about the distribution of federal moneys for the teaching of French to parts of the school system in Ontario—I gather, the private system in Ontario? Can he define his terms and explain to the Legislature exactly what it was that he asked the cabinet to reconsider?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I don't remember using the words "asked the cabinet to reconsider" or anything of that nature. It was pretty early in the morning, but as I recall, what I said, and I think I've said it many times other than on the CBC show this morning, was that the matter of the bilingual grants from the federal government—which, of course, we accept; something in the nature of somewhere around, as I recall, \$23 million or \$24 million for the teaching of French as a second language and for minority-language education in this province—that the matter of those grants being paid to private schools in this province—for example, the Hawthorne school—was something that was still under discussion by this government and that we hadn't made any determination as to whether or not we would allow the federal government to pay those grants in the same manner as it is now doing, I think, in Manitoba and British Columbia.

In other words, in those provinces, as I understand it, they are not paying the grants

to the private schools, although the situation is changing in British Columbia now, but the money is paid directly from the federal government to the private schools.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary may I ask, perhaps for further definition, is the minister making a distinction among various schools when he says that? Is he referring specifically and solely to schools like Hawthorne or the French School which have, in the private sector, a large component of French-language instruction now? Or does he mean to extend it beyond that—I needn't set it out for him; he understands the implications—but is he now being further selective or is he broad in his interpretation?

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's a rather major policy decision. I'm certainly being selective in that I'm not referring to the grade 13 grants that people talk about—that's a completely different subject.

Mr. Lewis: I understand that.

Hon. Mr. Wells: But I suppose the French grants which would be payable to the Hawthorne school or the Toronto French School—there are a number of other private schools, e.g., Catholic private schools, Upper Canada College, Ridley and others—

Mr. Singer: Yes, yes. Upper Canada College.

Mr. Breithaupt: That's called socialist realism.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Wells:—which would also qualify if they wish to ask for the money from the federal government, if we decided to allow that to happen.

Mr. Lewis: So, in fact you are including other schools.

Mr. Singer: Do you think Upper Canada should have it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A supplementary has been asked and the answer given.

Mr. S. Smith: In view of the fact that the minister has now been considering this matter for some years, I believe, can he tell us why there is a need for further delay before he permits what is a national policy—namely, to have this money available for the teaching of French—to be applied at the level of every student in Ontario irrespective of what school

he's attending? Why doesn't he just get on with it?

Mr. Singer: Don't pick on Upper Canada.

Hon. Mr. Wells: If my friend had listened to the radio programme this morning he would have heard my explanation.

Mr. Breithaupt: He did, and so did I.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It has, till this point in time, been this government's feeling that even to allow those grants to be paid to private schools in Ontario would violate our basic policy of no public tax money for private schools.

Mr. S. Smith: They go to private schools—

Hon. Mr. Wells: We felt that that was an overriding factor in this matter and, therefore, we have not seen fit to allow even that kind of an arrangement to happen, which needs our concurrence for the federal government to pay that money to private schools. But as I indicated on the programme, it's a matter that we're still looking at.

[2:15]

Mr. Lewis: Since I assume the minister mentioned Upper Canada only because he is a member of the board of directors, or governors, or whatever they're called, I won't pursue it with him. May I ask, when does he intend to provide the Legislature with an actual decision, since, obviously, if this money is available to the Catholic system, the private system, and those parts of it which are bilingual and French specifically, it does mean a very major shift in government policy? When does the minister expect to make the announcement?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I would differ with my friend, Mr. Speaker. I don't think it represents a major shift in government policy.

Mr. Foulds: Just a refinement.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's right, my friend said "a refinement." I have not indicated what the government's policy will be in this matter; I have just indicated it's something that's being looked at. I think that in presenting our total programme for teaching French as a second language, and with that the kinds of things that we are going to have to do to help convince Ottawa—and I don't think they'll take too much convincing—to increase their grants, I will also have to answer this question at that time, and I hope I can answer them all when we bring forward our programme in a week or so.

Mr. S. Smith: Does the minister not acknowledge that right now Ontario taxpayers are paying, via the federal government, to support the teaching of French in private schools throughout the rest of the country, with the exception possibly of New Brunswick? Doesn't that in some way contradict his present policy? And, if, in fact, this is not a major shift, why is it taking him years to make up his mind? And if it is a major shift, why is he saying it isn't?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, certainly I am aware of that. I am also aware, for instance, that the taxpayers of this province who choose to send their children to private schools are also paying taxes for the public system, but there is good and just reason why we do not pay grants to the private school system.

CANCER AND ASBESTOS

Mr. Lewis: A question, if I may, to the Minister of Labour—

Hon. B. Stephenson: You may.

Mr. Lewis: Thank you so much. Can I ask the minister to re-examine the letter from Dr. Miller on the question of laryngeal cancer and its potential compensable quality, on the basis that on close reading of this letter there is enough uncertainty in Dr. Miller's own mind—there are obviously arguments on both sides—that the benefit of the doubt could legitimately and compassionately be extended in this instance to cover the case of Aime Bertrand and perhaps others in similar circumstances?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I should be happy to re-examine Dr. Miller's letter again. This will be not just the second time but the tenth or eleventh time. The one specific statement which Dr. Miller has made is that at this time he can find no evidence of direct causal relationship, which I think is the important and the operative phrase. I should be very pleased to look at it again, but I doubt very much that a re-examination is going to change either Dr. Miller's opinion about this, or my understanding of what his opinion is.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, perhaps the minister, when she takes a look at it, could also comment on his equally compelling observation that "the difference between observed and expected for the total population is statistically significant." Beyond that, maybe via Dr. Miller she could explain to the

House what he means by the comparison group between white workers and black workers in the population under observation. What new matter has Dr. Miller discovered in white and black workers as distinctions which would draw these conclusions?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that Dr. Miller has discovered any particular item specifically, except that there are in certain other medical problems specific racial differences which have to be considered in establishing any kind of epidemiological study.

Mr. Lewis: In this?

Hon. B. Stephenson: In this? I'm not sure about this. I think he was making a general statement about this—

Mr. Deans: He was not.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —in that Dr. Selikoff had not separated the individual workers into racial background.

Mrs. Campbell: Supplementary: I wonder if the minister could explain to this House how she interprets the phrase "the benefit of the doubt to the worker," because I can't understand it the way it's operating? Perhaps she'd explain.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, when there is question about whether indeed an accident has occurred on the property of the employer, whether it has been work-related or not, if there is doubt, if there is a question raised by the employer or by others, the benefit of that doubt is given to the employee. However, in the establishment of those illnesses which can be considered to be compensable because they are work-related, the rule has to be laid down first before the benefit of the doubt can indeed be applied to the worker.

At this time, regarding laryngeal cancer and its relationship to asbestos, no such rule has as yet been established. It has been established in other health-related problems—such things as mesothelioma, carcinoma of the lungs, gastro-intestinal carcinoma—but it has not as yet been established in the area of laryngeal cancer.

Mr. Laughren: Supplementary: In view of the fact that there are, indeed, no contradictory epidemiological studies, and in view of the fact as well that there is sympathetic medical evidence to support laryngeal cancer as a compensable disease, and in view of the rather questionable, if not distasteful, implications in Dr. Miller's letter

to Dr. McCracken concerning socio-economic status and race, would the minister consider the appointment of a medical referee acceptable to Mr. Bertrand to determine the merits of this case and whether or not laryngeal cancer should indeed be compensable?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that I'm not entirely sure all of the hon. member's "in view of the facts" are valid in any way, I have stated—

An hon. member: They are.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —and I will restate today that I will re-examine Mr. Bertrand's case as I had promised to do.

Mr. Warner: We've heard that before.

Hon. B. Stephenson: That I shall do. If I feel that I require supportive or otherwise medical expertise, that I shall endeavour to find as well.

Mr. Laughren: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: No. Order, please. Final supplementary, the member for St. George. We can come back to this later if there is time.

Mrs. Campbell: Thank you. Could the minister have someone in her ministry review those cases which are now acceptable as compensable diseases, and how long it took before we were able to lay down that rule and hence get to the benefit of the doubt?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I think it's entirely possible that we should be able to do that. I would remind the hon. member for St. George that indeed Ontario has led in compensation for industrially-related diseases. It has been far ahead of almost any other jurisdiction in this area, in Canada and in the United States.

Mr. Nixon: We have more cases in Ontario.

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, we don't have more cases. We have fewer.

CONDITIONS AT DON JAIL

Mr. S. Smith: A question for the Minister of Correctional Services with regard to conditions at the Don Jail: Would the minister report to the House on the alleged beating of one Michael McKinnon by certain guards in the Don Jail in February, and would he comment on the letter written by six Don Jail inmates in which they said that neither

they nor visitors to the jail who witnessed the alleged assault on McKinnon were questioned during the inquiry which followed?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, I'll be pleased to get the information for the hon. member.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, he might at the same time look into their claim that this sort of incident happens "every day." Would he further comment with regard to the Don Jail on the opinion of the director of the Ontario Humane Society who reports that primates housed at the San Antonio Zoo, for instance, would never have cages smaller than six by eight feet, whereas the cells of three by eight used in the old section of the Don Jail might well constitute cruelty to animals?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of reading a copy of the letter signed by Mr. Cowper-Smith and I could see his tongue in his cheek throughout the entire letter. But I'll be pleased to comment on that in due course.

Mr. S. Smith: No, it wasn't.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary: Does the minister not understand that the exchanges between June Callwood and Dr. Cowper-Smith, in those letters, were entirely serious, and that the only ridicule being directed was at the government, not at the subject? Good grief, what is wrong with the minister?

Mr. Warner: Do something about that place.

Mr. S. Smith: Just by way of final supplementary, is the minister in fact aware of the exchange between June Callwood and Dr. Cowper-Smith, and the fact that the letter from Miss Callwood, which I will gladly table or read into the record, is one of the most passionate and touching letters that I have ever received?

Mr. Lewis: An inspired exchange.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, I have read both of those letters and I have indicated that I would touch on the reply in due course, when I make my other response.

WATER SUPPLY AT BEETON

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Minister of the Environment: In view of the fact that

after six years, and I guess it is about a quarter of a million dollars if I am not mistaken, Mr. Speaker, the village of Beeton still does not have an acceptable water supply, can the minister inform us whether any financial aid will be forthcoming to assist that particular village in obtaining a proper water supply?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, the problem is the taste of the water from some of the wells in that community. The water is clean, it is fit to drink; it just has a taste that my ministry is having great difficulty in removing and improving on in that village.

Mr. Lewis: The colour too.

Mr. Singer: It just looks like dirty water, it really isn't.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: We have even dug new wells in the hope of improving the taste of the water supply. At the present time my ministry is undertaking a rather extensive analysis, not only in connection with existing wells but involving the possibility of opening new wells.

Mr. Peterson: Are you prepared to swim in it?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: If that doesn't improve the situation we will have to put some type of communal system in there, which could be quite expensive, because the closest body of water is at least two or three miles away.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary: The minister refers to taste. Can the minister confirm whether the photographs I have been sent showing distinctly brown-coloured water are in fact authentic? Can he furthermore give an undertaking that this communal water supply will be established for the village of Beeton and in short order? They have been waiting a very long time.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, the samples the hon. member has must be quite old. We have corrected the cloudy or muddy appearance of the water. The answer to the second part of the question is yes, if we don't improve the taste we may have to build a communal system.

Mr. Sargent: Would you swim in it?

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Mr. Laughren: A question of the Minister of Labour: Why has the minister refused to recognize safety committees or safety reps at

the Inco installations in Sudbury, despite the fact that they have been requested by the United Steelworkers more than two weeks ago and despite the provisions of Bill 139?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I have not so refused at this time.

Mr. Laughren: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Why has the minister not agreed to appoint the committees, despite the request of the union? Further, while she is on her feet, would she tell us why, despite the fact that she clearly promised that mediators would be sent to Sudbury to resolve the new disputes so that Bill 139 can work before the omnibus legislation comes in, she has refused to do that either?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's words are quite ill chosen. I have not refused to do so in either case.

Indeed, the request did arrive in my office from the union in Sudbury regarding the establishment of safety and health committees, and safety representatives, on the basis of the provisions of Bill 139. It is incumbent upon the minister to examine all of the factors included in Bill 139 to decide whether such an action would be appropriate or not; that process is ongoing at this time.

In addition to that, the mediation services which I had suggested would be reasonable for the situation in Sudbury began approximately one week after my first visit to Sudbury.

Mr. Laughren: Not true.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: They were carried on by representatives of my ministry.

Mr. Laughren: Not true.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, it is the truth.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister is giving her answer; she is the only one who has the floor.

[2:30]

Hon. B. Stephenson: Representatives of my ministry were involved in discussing the matter, both with the union and with management. I was involved in one set of discussions. As a result of those discussions we have asked both union and management to get back together to resolve their problems, with our help, if necessary.

We are awaiting some word that indeed they have got back together at this time, and

if they have not, then we shall take further action.

Mr. Warner: Why do you pass legislation you never intend to support? It is ridiculous.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It is not ridiculous, it is fact.

Mr. Martel: Supplementary: In the letter to the minister from the union dated March 25 it states it seems that the minister has "seen fit not to follow through on this commitment as was given to us in Sudbury." Now, is there difficulty in people in the union field understanding this minister when she makes promises, because obviously they misinterpret what she was telling them as well, as in the case of my colleague from Sault Ste. Marie recently? There seems to be great difficulty in understanding her use of the English language.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I try very diligently to be precise in my use of the English language, which is a trait that I wish some of the members across the floor would exercise from time to time.

Interjections.

Hon. B. Stephenson: However, at the time of my visit to Sudbury, in my discussions directly with the union I suggested that indeed this problem looked as though it would be an appropriate area in which the ministry could attempt to mediate, to attempt to help solve the problem. We have undertaken that role.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Apparently the union felt I had said that I personally would mediate. I made no such statement.

Mr. Laughren: No, no. Not true. Two mediators.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: That is what was contained in the letter.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: However, we have made attempts to resolve this problem with the two groups separately and have suggested to both groups that as a result of these attempts they now meet together to resolve the problem together as they should be able to do—as any group of intelligent

people in this province should be able to do—at this time about this very important matter. If they are not capable of doing that as I suggested, we shall reconsider our position and decide whether indeed further mediation is necessary.

Mr. Singer: Or whether they are intelligent or not.

TOWNSEND TOWNSITE

Mr. Nixon: I have a question of the Minister of Housing. Does he recall the Premier (Mr. Davis) saying a week ago today that there would be a statement from the Ministry of Housing on the development of Townsend City, the proposed new city? Is he under the impression that his response to a question later last week took the place of that statement? Or is he not aware that the municipal officials in the area are very much concerned indeed as to what government policy will be on the development of that \$30-million site?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: As I understood the response that was given by the Premier to the question from the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller) it was that I would reply to his question in the House and that is what I did when I responded last week. I did not interpret the Premier's response at that time as meaning that I would be making a statement concerning Townsend.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary: Since the Premier did use the word "statement," I believe, there may have been some misunderstanding. However, would the minister undertake to prepare a statement of government policy on the development of the proposed new city, since his reference to the possibility of spending an additional \$40 million for servicing the land, with there being a possibility of perhaps only 250 lots in the foreseeable future, left some of the local municipal officials somewhat confused—to say nothing of the member, who as the minister knows, is from time to time confused on those matters.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: By the way, I am the member.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Yes, I understand that. I wasn't sure, Mr. Speaker, who the member was until he admitted that the member was sometimes confused. Then I knew who it was.

Mr. Nixon: I don't admit it, I assert it.

Mr. Sargent: At least he is still in the same party.

Mr. Mancini: He was confused listening to you, John.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I would not be in a position to make a statement on the policy as it relates to Townsend at this time because of the fact, as I believe I said in the House last week, we have been having discussions and will continue to have discussions for a short while with the regional council, who certainly have indicated, as the hon. member knows, some concern. In essence they have disagreed with some of the figures that we have been working with and we have been trying to resolve why we have come apart on the numbers as to expansion in the area when the source of the numbers we have both been working with has been the Steel Company of Canada.

Mr. Singer: Did you ever find out what John White really wanted? That is a key to that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: It's my intention to have those discussions, to talk with them and, hopefully, to resolve the concerns that have been expressed. At that time, we would make a statement in the House as well as in the area as to what our policy is. I also said last week that we would be sending the final planning report to the region for their consideration and for public discussion. To make a statement on the content of that report or any policy that may evolve from it, I think would be improper at this time.

Mr. Nixon: I'd just like to ask the minister if he would not agree that part of the confusion may lie in the figures that the government has provided, indicating that as well as the \$30 million invested in that one city site—and as my colleague wants to indicate there's another city site just a few miles away—

Mr. Singer: It's called the White City site after John White.

Mr. Nixon: —the government is proposing spending \$40 million on servicing when there are really less than 500 lots to be proposed by the government in its last statement. Surely some clarification has to be put forward without delay in that connection.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I don't want to comment on the \$40-million figure. That figure, as I believe I said again last week in response to a question, would be the maximum amount. I

will defer to my colleague, the Minister of the Environment, to deal with more specifics.

Mr. Singer: The polluter will pay.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: We've been talking about a lesser amount to be spent initially to provide basic services for the Townsend community and, at the same time, to bring water into two communities that need water, namely, Jarvis and Hagersville, which the hon. member well knows.

Mr. Nixon: That's got to be done anyway.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: That's right; we understand that it must be done. I think what we're trying to do is not only to provide the water facilities to those two communities but, at the same time, to bring the services into Townsend.

Mr. Sargent: You are trying to bail yourselves out.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: There is nothing to be bailed out about. It is a matter of trying to develop that site in which, I say with the greatest of respect, the hon. member has shown a considerable interest and, I believe, has reasonably supported the position.

Mr. Nixon: No, no.

Mr. Sargent: Why don't you tell the truth? You don't know what the hell you are doing.

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, so that you won't be misled, my position from the first was that the surrounding communities should be developed and that we should stop wasting money on that Townsend site.

RENT REVIEW

Mr. Breagh: I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. His statement again today firmly tied The Residential Premises Rent Review Amendment Act very tightly in with the federal anti-inflation programme. Could he explain to the House why he did not accept the six per cent guideline that is so strongly in the AIB?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I'm not aware of any six per cent guideline in the AIB except and in so far as it relates to wages.

Mr. Warner: The minister of corporate protection.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We have not tied the rent review programme into the AIB

philosophy. We've said that there is an anti-inflation programme in existence federally and that this province is committed to supporting it as long as it's there. Therefore, we've extended our Act to the scheduled end of that programme.

The figures in each Act have been completely independent ever since the inception of both Acts.

Mr. MacDonald: That is the problem.

Mr. Lewis: How do you choose eight per cent?

Mr. Breagh: Would the minister explain to the House why he chose to put in a termination date as opposed to an indication of when the vacancy rate rises, which would clearly be an indication that the problem is solved? Why did he choose a particular date in time as opposed to tying it to a vacancy rate?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I'd be very pleased to debate the bill with the hon. member, if that's what he wants to do right now. However, if I may just respond to that question, if the hon. member will tell us how to calculate vacancy, then I'd be glad to debate it with him. Nobody has been able to do it in any efficient way to date and I'm quite sure the NDP doesn't have the answer to that one.

Mr. Warner: Let's hear your answer.

Mr. Cassidy: You are ridiculous.

Mr. Nixon: It is the number of vacancies.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: How do you do it in Ottawa?

Mr. Peterson: You could count your feet and divide by two.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Singer: CMHC issues those statistics every month and you put them in your bulletin. If they are no good, why do you quote them?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We don't do them. CMHC does.

Mr. Singer: Sure you do.

Mr. S. Smith: How are you going to do it in your programme to build new houses in low-vacancy-rate areas?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary: I wonder if the minister would be prepared to table

before the Legislature the statistical information used by the ministry to determine that the eight per cent level should be sustained during the year that the Act will be maintained in operation?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We will do that when we're debating the bill.

Mr. Makarchuk: Table them now.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: If the hon. member will examine the bill, he will see that we are not married to the eight per cent. We put it in as a maximum. It can be reduced by order in council at any time, which is a change from the original bill when it could have been increased by order in council at any time. What we've said is that the information we now have indicates an eight per cent figure is a good guideline but not a ceiling. It has never been a ceiling; one can go over eight per cent at all times. However, we'll be glad to table that information if the hon. member wants it.

Mr. Nixon: Sounds pretty messy.

Mr. S. Smith: You know it's restrictive.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Now we're getting into debate on the bill which will come up in the House later.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: No, I said that was the final supplementary and we're getting into the bill.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: No. No.

Mr. S. Smith: There's no point of order.

Mr. Singer: Throw him out again.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Ottawa East with his question.

Mr. Cassidy: You never tabled that last year, you know. That information never came out.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

An hon. member: Throw him out.

Mr. Cassidy: You were asked for it.

GASOLINE TAX

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Revenue: Would the minister advise whether she has been in touch with her counterpart in the province of Quebec

about the threat to post inspectors on bridges and roads to the province of Ontario to ensure that out-of-province commercial vehicles either buy their fuel in Quebec or pay the 19 cents fuel tax under what they call their 1972 Fuel Tax Act? Has the minister been in touch with her counterpart in Quebec and can she report and allay the fears of the people concerned? There is much traffic, as she knows, in the Ottawa-Hull area.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Yes, I have been in touch with Mr. Parizeau and my deputy has been in touch with his deputy. This matter is under discussion and I believe I can expect it to be resolved satisfactorily for our two provinces very shortly. The only thing that is holding it up at the moment is that Mr. Parizeau brings in his budget this evening and our discussion had to be put aside for a few days until his budget could be completed.

Mr. Roy: Supplementary: Would the minister please advise when, in fact, she'll report on this? Secondly, did she advise Mr. Parizeau about the fact that it was totally unacceptable that they start posting inspectors on either the Ontario or the Quebec side checking every vehicle that goes over and across the bridge? There are about 15,000 civil servants who travel that route every day.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, various aspects of the problem have been discussed.

OPP NATIVE CONSTABLES

Mr. Angus: A question for the Solicitor General regarding the native constable programme: Could the minister please advise this House why there is a lower salary scale for constables in the native constable programme as compared to regular constables with the Ontario Provincial Police, and further, could he advise why the same fringe benefit package, particularly provisions for life insurance and pension, are also not available to these special native constables?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Very briefly, the native constables are not subject to the same income tax provisions as are the regular constables, and for that reason there are some differences in their pay scales.

Mr. Angus: Supplementary: Would the minister be prepared to negotiate with the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development at least to alleviate the difference in the lack of life insurance and pension programmes for these individuals, particularly life insurance, because they are

in the same type of job, they in fact assist regular OPP forces and are, in fact, in the same type of danger?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Sir, we'll take it under advisement.

VIOLENCE IN THE HOME

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Attorney General: In view of the fact that the Attorney General has taken such an interest in violence in hockey and violence on television, could he advise this House whether he is prepared at this point to spend some money for some crisis intervention because of violence in the home?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member has some specific proposal to recommend to the government, I'm sure I'd be very interested in hearing it, as, I'm sure, would the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Norton). This whole business of crisis intervention in the home is obviously a serious problem, but I'd like to hear the hon. member's proposals for a solution.

Mr. Warner: Because you have run out of ideas.

Mrs. Campbell: Supplementary: Do I take it then that the initiative of the Attorney General is not addressed to this problem as it was to the others? Is it because the others were simpler to resolve?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I don't think that question deserves an answer, or attempt to answer. It's nonsense.

Mr. Ruston: Your headlines are hockey, eh, Roy?

[2:45]

WOOD IMPORTS

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources. If the minister's reforestation programme is as effective as he claimed last week, why did the mills in Thunder Bay feel it is necessary to import 48,000 cords of spruce, jackpine and poplar from the US in the past year?

Hon. F. S. Miller: It may be entirely a question of price; but I'll be glad to find out. It's my understanding that the cost per cunit of wood in Ontario is as much as 50 per cent

more than the cost per cunit of wood in the States.

Mr. Foulds: By the way, that's not so in the situation at Thunder Bay.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Foulds: Can the minister further indicate why MacMillan Bloedel has unilaterally reduced the quantities of wood it is accepting from independent cutters in the Thunder Bay area—contrary to its wood purchase agreements as designed by this ministry and forced on the independent cutters three years ago—so that they have to deliver all of their wood to MacMillan Bloedel? Why is it necessary for MacMillan Bloedel still to import wood from the US? And will the minister allow the independent cutters to sell their wood to other mills as long as they do not exceed the allowable cut designed by his ministry for their licences?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of points in that question, some of which I obviously can't answer without checking. I'll be glad to check those things necessary. I can't speculate as to why the cuts were reduced unless, perhaps, there is some clause in the overall agreement between the company and its own forestry staff to guarantee employment for a certain number of people. I think one of the problems we've had in subletting cuts to independent operators has been a certain number of union agreements which require a level of production from their own staff. That may be the case in this particular instance. I can easily find out.

Mr. Foulds: If the minister's hypothesis is accurate, why is it that MacMillan Bloedel is still importing wood from the US? Does he understand that it was his ministry that forced all of the independent cutters in the Thunder Bay area to deliver wood only to MacMillan Bloedel?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I don't like the word "forced." I will gladly check and find out the current terms of that agreement. There are times I'd like to have the force but I don't have it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

HOME WARRANTY PLAN

Mr. O'Neil: I have a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

As local municipalities will not grant building permits to builders who are not registered with the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada, is the minister aware that the present six to eight weeks waiting period for registration of builders seriously affects the construction industry, and that this backlog of applications contributes greatly to unemployment and stagnation in the building industry in this province?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: As I understand the question—am I aware of the fact that this has some detrimental effect on building?

Mr. Warner: What are you going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Yes, it does. I should point out to the hon. member that the whole programme is administered by the private sector which, for years, has complained about government red tape in administering programmes. I think this indicates that red tape is not always easily cut, and the private sector is finding that out as well as we are.

Mr. O'Neil: I don't really go along with the answer of the minister, because this group comes under his staff.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. You don't debate it. Do you have any further questions?

Mr. O'Neil: Okay. It comes under his ministry. Is the minister prepared to do something about this backlog, to see that something is done in this province to get some of these builders registered and to get building going in the province?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We have already asked the board of directors of the corporation designated to administer the programme to put on additional staff, to process the applications faster and to do whatever is possible to catch up to the backlog.

Mr. Good: And what about a change of address?

Mrs. Campbell: What do you do?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: One thing we have not done is accept the fact that the government should administer a programme that the private sector wanted to; and that party voted for it.

Mr. Bullbrook: Because you are an expert on red tape yourself.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I am getting rid of it.

Mr. Bullbrook: You are an expert on it.

Mr. O'Neil: Supplementary: I wonder if the minister would look at this carefully. I think it is a very serious problem in the province and, surely, between his ministry and HUDAC he could come up with some solutions—make sure that these builders are registered right away and building can get on in the province.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, not only are we prepared to look at it carefully; and we have looked at it carefully, we have discussed it with HUDAC and will continue to do that to speed up the process.

SUPPLY OF MEMORIAL WREATHS

Mr. Johnson: A question of the Minister of Government Services, Mr. Speaker, in two parts: First, is the minister aware that the government of Ontario has for more than 20 years recognized the great contribution and sacrifice made by Canadian veterans by directly purchasing, without tender, memorial wreaths made by disabled veterans employed by Vetcraft Industries? Second, what is the minister's intention with respect to this policy; does he intend to let the contract out for tender, which might cause the loss of jobs for disabled veterans?

Hon. J. R. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I understand this has been discussed lately in Sault Ste. Marie and other places. I have every intention of continuing the practice of supplying to the members of this House, and to others, the traditional Royal Canadian Legion Vetcraft wreath of maple leaves and the traditional red poppy. I have no intention of asking for other tenders or other suppliers.

Mr. Johnson: In view of the minister's response, would he consider informing the Ontario command of the Royal Canadian Legion that the Ontario government will continue to purchase wreaths directly without tender from Vetcraft Industries?

Hon. J. R. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to and to say how we appreciate what it stands for in this ongoing very fine programme of the Legion.

MAYO REPORT

Ms. Gigantes: A question of the Minister of Education, Mr. Speaker: I wonder, while he and the cabinet are considering whether

they will accept federal money for French-language training in private schools, would he also think about and ask cabinet to consider those recommendations of the Mayo report on Ottawa-Carleton regional government concerning the pooling and equitable sharing of property taxes collected by the four Ottawa-Carleton boards of education?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I think what we are doing in regard to the Mayo report is what my colleague, the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), is doing. We are at the present time getting input from the various school boards concerned about the suggestions that Mayo has put forward. Once we have that process completed, we will then consider what, if any, action should be taken on the recommendations.

Ms. Gigantes: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Does this mean that the ministry is open to the proposition of the pooling and sharing of property taxes among the four boards?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think that particular recommendation, of course, may not necessarily be completely unique to that area of the province and may have ramifications generally for taxation, which of course is all being looked at based on the recommendations of the Blair commission. I really don't know yet, we will have to wait until we get the comments in.

TOURISM

Mr. Eakins: A question of the Minister of Industry and Tourism, Mr. Speaker: In preparation for the coming tourist season and in view of the continual decline in tourism visitations from the United States, will he be recommending to the Treasurer a temporary removal of the retail sales tax from accommodation rental in Ontario, from May through October inclusive?

An hon. member: A good question.

Mr. S. Smith: That's a good idea.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: No, Mr. Speaker, I will not.

An hon. member: Do you want the tourists here, Claude?

Mr. Eakins: In this area, what incentives or what will the ministry be undertaking, other than a massive advertising campaign, to help the sagging tourist industry in Ontario this summer?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I have already made some recommendations to the Treasurer as to what I think he should include in his speech of next Tuesday evening. Like other members of this Legislature, I shall wait until Tuesday night to find out whether some of the suggestions are being followed by the Treasurer.

OPERATING RULES FOR PRIVATE RAILWAYS

Mr. Martel: A question of the Minister of Labour: Recently, Mr. Adelard Bruyere was killed at the Inco Clarabelle mill when he was crushed between a moving train of ore cars and a rotary car dumper. Is the minister aware that if the operating rules governing the CN-CP had been applied, the train would have stopped immediately the engineer lost sight of the conductor? And is the minister further aware that for six years I have requested this government to include that as part of the operating rules, which would have prevented this type of accident occurring?

Hon. B. Stephenson: In response to the hon. member's last question, no, I was not aware of his action in this area. But I shall be very pleased to examine the case of Mr. Bruyere, which has been noted by the hon. member for Sudbury East, and I shall report to the House on the developments of that examination.

Mr. Martel: Supplementary: Can the minister indicate at the same time when the study, which was undertaken between the unions and the companies with respect to operating rules for private railways, will be introduced as legislation, if it has been completed?

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, I can't at this point in time, but I shall try to find out and report.

ALUMINUM WIRING

Mr. Kerrio: I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. In an answer he gave me the other day on the dangers of aluminum wiring, he suggested that it wasn't available for purchase in this province. I would ask him to explain a conversation I had this morning with one of the extremely large suppliers of electrical cable here in Ontario. When I queried him about the availability of aluminum wiring, he said: "How much would you like?" Could the minister explain that?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I don't recall—I would have to check Hansard—but I don't believe I said it wasn't available. I said it wasn't being used; and that's probably the reason why the manufacturer has a great amount on hand to sell.

Mr. Kerrio: Supplementary: In the conversation, he suggested to me that it could be used for replacement as well; so I'll pose this question to the minister again: With the dangers that exist, would he consider banning it until such time as it's proven safe and not vice versa?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I don't see much point in setting up a public inquiry and then saying to the public inquiry that we've already made up our minds that a danger exists. The reason for the public inquiry is to inquire into the problem; to determine the degree of danger, if any, and to suggest action to be taken by this government and other levels of government. That's the announcement that I mentioned would be taking place when I answered the hon. member a few days ago.

An hon. member: You're burning the evidence.

Mr. Moffatt: Supplementary: In view of the minister's answer, are we then to presume that this government will assume liability for any accident which occurs as a result of aluminum wiring between the date of the announcement of that committee and its recommendations?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We'll wait until the commissioner has reported and then we'll determine what action has to be taken.

LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Mr. Grande: My question is to the Minister of Education: Would the minister explain, in more detail than there is in the Throne Speech, what a heritage language programme is? Would he further explain how he manages to fund programmes—and I'm quoting from the Throne Speech—to encourage "children to understand the language and culture of their parents [through] a continuing education offering," which, as far as I understand it, is adult education? I don't understand that.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think that's very understandable. Of course, I didn't write the speech—Her Honour wrote the speech—

An hon. member: Do you write any of your stuff?

Hon. Mr. Wells: —or use the very fine language that was in it. But, in answer to

my friend's question, the details of that programme will be announced very shortly.

[3.00]

WATER AND SEWAGE PROJECTS

Mr. McKessock: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. In view of the fact that there are some 70 sewage and water projects across the province that are held up by the government for lack of funds; in view of the fact that some of these are health hazards to the community and the communities have received word from the health authorities saying they must complete these projects—projects such as those at Meaford and Neustadt—and in view of the fact that funds are coming through from other ministries for projects that don't seem to have the same priority, why are funds not coming through the Ministry of the Environment for these sewage projects?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: We've got well over 100 projects in 100 different municipalities during this coming fiscal year. It may be just physically impossible to do all the work that has to be done this particular year. As for the projects the hon. member is talking about, at Meaford, for example, we're going ahead with engineering this year and I would expect that within a year's time the actual expansion of the sewage treatment plant there will be undertaken. As far as Neustadt is concerned—I believe it's water there—the question of priority again comes into this whole picture, given the amount of money allocated to me. As a result of a meeting last week with some representatives from the Collingwood area, I have indicated that, hopefully, Neustadt will start next year as well.

Mr. McKessock: In view of the fact that it is a health hazard and also that it's holding up home construction, which is badly needed, does the minister not feel that this is of sufficient importance to call upon the Premier (Mr. Davis) to bring the situation before the Management Board?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Those areas where there is a health hazard are included in my budget estimates for the coming year, that is the first priority. The growth or expansion of subdivisions is after that particular priority, and Neustadt just does not have quite the high priority of many other municipalities in the province as far as health is concerned, although it does have a high rating; and that's why, hopefully, we will start next year.

Mr. McKessock: In view of the fact that Neustadt has a letter from the health authority

saying that this is a health hazard in their community, would the minister see that this programme is put ahead in priority?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Without underrating the opinion of the local medical officer of health, I've had a number of letters of that kind when there's some pressure to clean up a particular situation. As a result of correspondence of that kind, of course, my ministry officials have to go into the community and analyse the situation on their own; we've done that in Neustadt.

There's no question that some of the wells need cleaning up, shall we say; but by servicing those wells, in many respects we could postpone, at least, a very expensive communal system for a small village of that kind. The member is talking \$3 million and \$4 million for a community of maybe 500 or 600 people. If the wells or the septic systems can be cleaned up by individual attention, hopefully that communal system can wait until next year when funds will be available.

ALLEGED LINK BETWEEN FLUORIDE AND CANCER

Mr. Deans: A question of the Minister of Health: Will the Ministry of Health review the information used to justify the recent statement that came from the United States that links the use of fluoride with cancer? And will the minister, on behalf of the ministry and the government, make a statement to either refute or authenticate the claims that are being made before more people die of heart attacks and fear than die of cancer?

Mr. Roy: Or get grey hairs.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I've seen nothing, in discussions with my staff I've seen no documentation, to support that assertion made by one individual in the United States.

Mr. Deans: A supplementary question: Since the minister hasn't seen it and I haven't seen it, and since a lot of people are concerned about it, does the minister think it might be too much to ask that his ministry obtain the findings and obtain the information and review it over and against what is generally accepted medical information, to determine whether or not there's any validity at all to it?

Mr. Reid: Fluoride makes your hair go straight.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The hon. member knows there is hardly a day of the week

passes that somebody, somewhere in the world, doesn't make an assertion, based on whatever amount of research or simple thought processes, that something might be related to the causes of cancer.

Mr. Breithaupt: Brown suits are bad, too.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: And if the member is suggesting that I table a statement every time, in this Legislature, that somebody makes that kind of a statement somewhere in the world, then that's all you'd ever hear in this Legislature. On this specific point, I've seen no evidence to indicate that there's anything to substantiate that assertion.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are just about out of time, and there are several people who have more questions. A final supplementary from the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Nixon: Since the minister must be aware that there are many communities in the province that have been using fluorides for many years—for example, Brantford, since 1946—would he not think that this is a special matter that must concern those citizens very much indeed; that it would be a great and useful service if, as Minister of Health, he could provide the information which would refute what I consider to be the irresponsible statement from that American source which has been carried so extensively by the media in the province?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I will take the hon. member's suggestion under advisement.

HIGHWAY 402

Mr. Bullbrook: I have a question on behalf of myself and the Chairman of Cabinet (Mr. Henderson) to the Minister of Transportation and Communication. Today, marking the ninth anniversary of the announcement of Highway 402 east of Sarnia and that particular highway never having been violated by a motor vehicle yet, I'm wondering, since the government has spent about \$60 million on pre-engineering, land acquisition, engineering overpasses and the road itself, could the ministry consider paving it to Komoka so that we could do away with what the Hon. Charles McNaughton rightly characterized as "that death strip going out of Sarnia"?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, as I'm sure the hon. member knows, there is a great deal of activity on Highway 402 at this time.

Mr. Nixon: Birds fly around it; dust blows.

Hon. Mr. Snow: There are a number of contracts under way. Two new major contracts have been awarded this spring and they are proceeding as fast as resources will allow them to go.

An hon. member: Answer the question.

Mr. Bullbrook: I appreciate the minister's indulging me. Would it be too much just to ask him to answer the question? Would he consider paving it? Everything is there to Komoka; would he consider just paving it this year?

Mr. Eaton: It doesn't even go to Komoka, Jim.

Mr. Hodgson: Why don't you ask Warner for the information and he'll tell you.

Mr. Bullbrook: I'm sorry—not to Komoka. My colleague points out I am completely in error—to Warwick Village. He's quite right.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, now that I know where the hon. member is referring to, there are—

Mr. Bullbrook: I apologize.

Hon. Mr. Snow: —there are three contracts starting from Sarnia and going easterly. There is a grading contract that was awarded last year—awarded, I guess, in 1975; it will be totally complete this year—and a paving contract will be awarded this year, for 6.6 miles, as soon as the grading contract on that section is completed.

Mr. Roy: Is that for paving?

Hon. Mr. Snow: The grading contract is being done by Marentette, if that tells the member which one it is.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: That's in the member's riding.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Following that, Mr. Speaker, the next contract under way is a paving contract. It will be completed in the summer of 1977. It is a further seven miles and is being carried out by Armbr Construction.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: That's in my riding.

Mr. Bullbrook: Yours is probably paved in gold.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Following that there's a paving contract that was awarded in January of 1977 for the completion in the fall of 1977 at the earliest, if they have a good year. This is a further 7.4 miles, to Warwick, and

this contract has been let to Huron Construction.

Mr. Bullbrook: We are making progress, by the turn of the century we will get it.

Mr. Nixon: It will be nine years.

Mr. Bullbrook: A year a mile, and \$2 million.

Mr. Martel: The Timmins highway took 30 years.

Hon. Mr. Snow: So those contracts, Mr. Speaker, are under way and I am sure that—

Mr. Lewis: What about Komoka?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: That is in Indiana, isn't it?

LAND SPECULATION TAX EXEMPTION

Mr. Makarchuk: A question of the Minister of Revenue: Now that the matter of Ronto has been brought to her attention, about a week and a half ago, has the minister acquainted herself with the auditor's opinion that the land speculation tax on this particular transaction should be collected? If so, is the minister prepared to make that collection?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: This property, Mr. Speaker, has been exempted from tax.

Mr. Speaker: We'll allow a brief supplementary: the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Nixon: Is the minister consulting with the Premier (Mr. Davis) over the establishment of a select committee of the Legislature to look into the matter as is referred to in the recommendation of the standing committee on public accounts, which appears in Votes and Proceedings, No. 1 of this session?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I am not aware that there is a request before us at the present time for such an investigation.

Mr. Reid: What?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: And I am not consulting with the Premier on this matter.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: A point of order.

Mr. Nixon: Since the minister indicated she was not aware of what appears in Votes and Proceedings, No. 1—

Mr. Speaker: I heard the hon. minister say she would check into it.

Mr. Nixon: —it is on page 14.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Thank you very much, there is nothing really out of order.

Mr. Deans: On a different point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Wentworth.

POINTS OF ORDER

Mr. Deans: Earlier today I asked the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations if he would table information with regard to the statement that he made. I want to draw to his attention that standing order 23(8) requires that there be a compendium of information made available after a policy statement or introduction of a government bill. I would ask the minister to comply with that and provide a compendium of information.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It has been provided.

Mr. Deans: Where is it then?

Mr. Speaker: I think we might clarify this.

Mr. S. Smith: I don't have it.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It has been sent to the official critics as required under the rules. Get your critic in the House.

Mr. Speaker: There may have been a breakdown of communications; you had better check into it.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The same point of order?

Mr. Lewis: On the same point of order, I believe the minister is confusing two matters. I think he means the copy of the statement which he made in the House today—

Mr. Deans: That is not what we are after.

Mr. Lewis: —which we duly received. However, there is now a new rule in the Legislature which requires the information which supports the statement of policy—and it cer-

tainly was a statement of policy—to be given to the House at the time the statement of policy has been made.

The provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) indicated that he intended to do that in relation to a statement he made last week. Therefore, my colleague for Wentworth asks, under the rules, where is the minister's supporting documentation?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: On the point of order, it was not a statement of policy. It was a statement prior to the introduction of a bill. My understanding of the rule is the compendium can be distributed when the bill is introduced. It will be introduced as soon as we get through arguing this point of order.

Mr. Speaker: I understand this has now been tabled.

Mr. Breithaupt: On a point of order with respect, as well, to an involvement in the new rules: Referring to the new item 10, which appears with rule 27 concerning the indication to the House, within 14 days, with respect to whether answers to questions will be costly or time-consuming to prepare, on the order paper today there is now item No. 1, an inquiry of the ministry, which has its 14 days now expired; by Thursday there will be some 19 more items whose time will have expired with respect to answers, if in fact they are going to be lengthy or time-consuming. Could you, Mr. Speaker, take up with the particular ministries involved the concerns of the members as to the answering of the questions so that this rule will allow the information to come forward, in the absence of the difficulty that might exist to prepare detailed answers?

Mr. Speaker: I trust that the comments will be noted by the ministry. If there has been a delay, I haven't noted.

Mr. Reed: Mr. Speaker, I am sure you may be aware of this, but on this day of all days, when the sun is shining so gloriously outside the heat is still on in Queen's Park. I wonder if Mr. Speaker would be good enough to bring this to the attention of our resident custodian, the Minister of Government Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) in order to set the example for conservation in this province?

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure if that is a point of order or privilege.

Presenting reports.

MOTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that Mr. R. S. Smith replace Mr. Gaunt on the resources development committee, and that Mr. Gaunt replace Mr. R. S. Smith on the general government committee.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lewis: An excellent suggestion.
[3:15]

RESIDENTIAL PREMISES RENT REVIEW AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Handleman moved first reading of Bill 28, An Act to amend the Residential Premises Rent Review Act, 1975, Second Session.

Motion agreed to.

BOROUGH OF YORK ACT

Mr. MacDonald moved first reading of Bill Pr5, An Act respecting the Borough of York.

Motion agreed to.

LOMBARDO FURNITURE AND APPLIANCE LIMITED ACT

Mr. Burr moved first reading of Bill Pr11, An Act respecting Lombardo Furniture and Appliances Limited.

Motion agreed to.

TORONTO GENERAL BURYING GROUNDS ACT

Mr. Drea moved first reading of Bill Pr2, An Act respecting the Trustees of the Toronto General Burying Grounds.

Motion agreed to.

FRED LEBLOND CEMENT PRODUCTS LIMITED ACT

Mr. Drea, on behalf of Mr. Morrow, moved first reading of Bill Pr16, An Act respecting Fred Leblond Cement Products Limited.

Motion agreed to.

SUCCESSOR RIGHTS (CROWN TRANSFERS) ACT

Hon. Mr. Auld moved first reading of Bill 29, An Act to provide for Successor Rights

on the transfer of an undertaking to or from the Crown.

Motion agreed to.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. S. Smith moved first reading of Bill 30, An Act to amend The Municipal Elections Act, 1972.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of explanation, Mr. Speaker, the bill removes the property qualification which creates a distinction between those persons in a municipality who are qualified to vote for municipal representatives and those who are qualified to vote on money by-laws.

BOROUGH OF EAST YORK ACT

Mr. Leluk moved first reading of Bill Pr9, An Act respecting the Borough of East York.

Motion agreed to.

CANADA TRUSTCO MORTGAGE COMPANY ACT

Mr. Peterson moved first reading of Bill Pr4, An Act respecting Canada Trustco Mortgage Company.

Motion agreed to.

BROCKVILLE GENERAL HOSPITAL ACT

Mr. McCague moved first reading of Bill Pr7, An Act respecting the Brockville General Hospital.

Motion agreed to.

VILLAGE OF ERIE BEACH ACT

Mr. Spence moved first reading of Bill Pr20, An Act respecting the Village of Erie Beach.

Motion agreed to.

ROMAN CATHOLIC EPISCOPAL CORPORATION (DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA) ACT

Mr. Villeneuve moved first reading of Bill Pr19, An Act Respecting the Roman

Catholic Episcopal Corporation for the Diocese of Alexandria in Ontario, Canada.

Motion agreed to.

FRANK POSTL ENTERPRISES LIMITED ACT

Mr. Lane, in the absence of Mr. Johnston, moved first reading of Bill Pr24, An Act Respecting Frank Postl Enterprises Limited.

Motion agreed to.

WEBWOOD INVESTMENTS LIMITED ACT

Mr. B. Newman, in the absence of Mr. Stong, moved first reading of Bill Pr6, An Act Respecting Webwood Investments Limited.

Motion agreed to.

KEVALAINE CORPORATION LIMITED ACT

Mr. Grossman moved first reading of Bill Pr13, An Act Respecting Kevalaine Corporation Limited.

Motion agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, just before calling the orders for today, I wonder if the House would bear with me.

The House leaders felt it might be helpful if we read into the record the results of a number of meetings with committee chairmen and others to establish the schedule for committees and the schedule for the House. Until otherwise agreed, the schedule for committee meetings will be as follows:

On Monday morning, of course, there will be no meetings. On Monday afternoon, social development, procedural affairs and members' services are scheduled to meet. Therefore, it's understood that if the social committee is dealing with estimates or legislation, there will be no social development field ministers' business in the House on Monday afternoon, as provided in provisional rule 31. On Monday night, there are no meetings.

On Tuesday morning, the various caucuses will meet. Tuesday afternoon, there will be social development committee and members' services. Therefore, once again, there will be

no social development ministries having business in the House on Tuesday afternoon. On Tuesday night, general government and statutory instruments will meet, therefore, if the general government committee is dealing with estimates or legislation, there will not be any business of the general government field ministries in the House on Tuesday night.

[3:30]

Wednesday morning, the general government, resources development and justice committees will meet—it being understood that only two of these committees may consider estimates or legislation at the same time. On Wednesday afternoon, it will be general government and social development; and of course there are no meetings on Wednesday evening.

On Thursday morning, it is resources development, the public accounts committee and the procedural affairs committee; and of course in the afternoon it will be the justice committee, it being understood they are to finish by 5:45 since that's private members' afternoon. As a result, as well, no justice ministries will have business in the House on Thursday afternoon.

It is of course understood that there is a requirement for full attendance in the House by 5:45 on Thursday because of the new procedures dealing with private members' valid items.

On Thursday night it will be the justice committee and the statutory instruments committee; therefore no justice field ministries will have business in the House on Thursday night.

On Friday morning there will be the resources committee and public accounts committee; it being understood, as well, that there are no resource field ministries having business in the House on Friday morning.

Members can see why there is some advantage to having this on the record so that they can read it and understand what is a very interesting schedule. I want to commend the chairman for working out all these details.

With respect to the House, as a result of the above committee schedule and provisional rule 31, until further notice, it has been agreed that the following weekly schedule for House business will be followed:

On Monday afternoon the House will be in committee of supply to deal with estimates; on Tuesday afternoon, the House will deal with legislation—that is in the resources,

justice or general government area—and on Tuesday night we'll deal with legislation in the resources, justice or social area. On Thursday afternoon, of course, there will be the private members' ballot business. On Thursday night it will be budget debate, or a report on committee reports or other special debates. On Friday morning the House will be in committee of supply to consider estimates.

According to the time table, this weekly schedule will take effect the week of May 2. That's the first order.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, before you call the order, there are two comments I'd like to make with regard to the announcement of the House leader that I think might be important.

First of all, it's been very difficult for all of the people concerned to find a way to accommodate all of the new rules and to bring about the House business in an orderly fashion. I think that the caution that we have to put before the Legislature is simply this: These rules are not written on tablets of stone and if there are problems with the workings of the new rules, all of us who are concerned with those matters would be quite prepared to hear representation and to make whatever adjustments are required to be made.

In addition to that, I also want to say to the government House leader something that has been on my mind. The fact that they're called provisional rules shouldn't be considered by anyone, now or in the future, to be an interpretation that they are intended only to serve the minority government. They're provisional to the extent that we want to try them out and make adjustments to them, but at some point in the future when we are the majority government in the province of Ontario—

Mr. Ruston: Not in your time, never.

Mr. Deans: —it would be our wish to keep these rules in place because they're intended to facilitate the work of the members of the Legislature. I hope that would be the intention of both of the other parties in the unlikely event that they found themselves in that position.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, going back to reality now for a moment—

Mr. Ruston: Yes.

Mr. Sweeney: Let's be serious.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, we'll hear a few brief comments from the member for Kitchener.

Mr. Breithaupt: Certainly over the last several weeks the House leaders, and I must say particularly each of their executive assistants, as well as the table officers, and of course, you Mr. Speaker, and your deputies, have worked hard in an attempt to develop a pattern of meetings, both within the House and within committees, to allow a balance of the individual members in the conduct of business within the House and committees inside a framework to make sure there was no duplication or more difficulty than there would have to be.

We recognize that there are a number of members, because of the present makeup of the House, who have to serve on two, and sometimes even three, committees, so there are going to be certain conflicts in order to ensure that the business is conducted in the right place at the right time. But certainly my colleagues, the other two House leaders, have attempted, with me and with our other advisers, to come up with a pattern that will encourage the greatest individual opportunity for committees to meet and do their work within the necessary framework that the business of the House must also be conducted.

It is in the nature of an experiment at this point. I would hope we will receive the goodwill of all the members to ensure that these rules continue not only for the balance of this parliament but whatever may befall in the next parliament.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Orders of the day.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my understanding that when we adjourned on Friday the hon. member for Downsview had the floor. He may continue.

Mr. di Santo: The second reason this government is unable to cope with the problems of the economy of this province, and in particular with the problems of industrial development and job creation in the productive sector, is related to the auto pact and the crucial importance that the auto pact has for the province of Ontario. In fact, in Ontario

is located 90 per cent of the automobile industry in Canada. Even though this industry since the inception continued to exhibit the characteristic features of branch plant industrialism, in the first years of the pact, despite the deepening parts deficit, the growing assembly surpluses meant that the overall trade picture was improving for Canada and therefore for Ontario.

In 1970 and 1971, Canada achieved more surpluses in its overall auto trade with the United States. Beginning in 1972 though, our auto trade performance has sharply altered. In 1975, the deficit reached a staggering \$1.9 billion. After a decade under the automotive trade agreement, Canada had returned to the kind of trade deficit that had been the reason for entering the pact in the first place.

The 1975 deficit in auto parts trade with the US was just under \$2.5 billion, a figure so high as to point to the near collapse of Canada's auto parts industry. Whereas in 1972 the Canadian auto parts industry manufactured products worth 90.8 per cent of the value of parts produced—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will you keep your private conversations down, please? I want to listen to the member for Downsview.

Mr. di Santo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad you want to listen because I think that it's quite important for the province of Ontario. In 1975, the proportion of parts manufactured in Canada dropped dramatically to 55.1 per cent. What accounted for the stunning turn-around in Canada's auto trade with the United States and what are its implications for future Canadian economic performance?

Both short-term and long-term factors underlie the new auto trade deficits. The most important short-term factor in the trade turn-around was the relatively greater collapse of the US market during the recession years of 1974 and 1975. While the relatively greater collapse of the US market during the recession of the mid-Seventies accounted for the exceptionally high Canadian auto deficit in 1975, the deficit remained at the level of \$1 billion even in 1976, a year during which this short-term factor was no longer operative. The 1976 deficit pointed to the operation of long-term factors that make it unlikely that Canada's trade with the US would return to a state of balance. The slowdown in capital investment, noticeably in auto parts plants in Canada, is part of a long-term trend that has nothing to do with the momentary ups and downs of the auto market in the US and Canada. Auto industry investment has shifted

to the US for two major reasons: the economics of the auto industry and the result of US government measures designed to lead to just such a shift.

As you remember, Mr. Speaker, writing off taxes on export sales has had an especially important impact on Canadian-American auto trade. While the list of American companies operating under the DISC tax plan has not been made public, former industry minister Jean-Luc Pepin told the House of Commons that both Ford and Chrysler have been exporting products to Canada under DISC plans.

The productivity gap and US government incentives to shift auto investment to the United States are not the only long-run problems facing the Canadian auto industry. The automobile is experiencing a long-term relative decline in North America, and the relative decline of the auto industry has three basic causes: the overdevelopment of auto production facilities in the industrial world in relation to markets; the problem of the automobile as a mode of transit in congested urban centres, and rapidly rising fuel prices.

The problem of urban congestion contributes to placing limits on the potential size of the auto market. And, finally, the energy price increases affect the auto market in several ways. Higher gasoline prices tend to favour other modes of transportation over the automobile and thereby become a factor in limiting market size. Moreover, energy price increases affect the cost of producing automobiles.

Auto production, as I said before, remains the hub of manufacturing in Ontario. In this province, almost 100,000 people work in the industry, producing about one ninth of the gross national product. The consequences of the continued dependence of Ontario manufacturing on auto production are serious. The auto industry is in a state of relative decline in North America and Canada's share of North American auto production is likely to remain well below the country's share of consumption of North American-produced automobiles.

Two final factors should be taken into account in any assessment of the future role of the auto industry in the Canadian economy: the switch to smaller, fuel-saving automobiles, and the tendency of the auto industry to shift auto parts production to low-wage countries.

Throughout this decade, first in response to the invasion of North American markets by European and Japanese compact cars and later in response to the escalation of gasoline prices, American auto manufacturers have been shifting the balance of their output from large and intermediate cars to smaller offer-

ings. While Ford and Chrysler held the lead in the conversion until 1974, General Motors, the largest automaker, has been spending hundreds of millions of dollars retooling its facilities to shift its production to smaller-sized cars. Such a shift will only reinforce the other tendencies in the industry, already discussed, that are leading to large-scale auto trade deficits for Canada in the foreseeable future.

In the years ahead the auto trade will exacerbate the critical problem of Canada's and Ontario's current account deficit, as mentioned at the beginning of my speech. The relative stagnation of the industry will have a weakening effect on the entire development of Canadian manufacturing.

[3:45]

The poor prospects for the Canadian and Ontario auto industry are becoming alarming. To its 1976 budget, the Ontario government and the Treasurer appended an analysis of Canada's record under the auto pact. The report warned that while Canada's performance in the first years of the automobile agreement was satisfactory, major problems have developed since 1969. But while the Ontario government's study of the auto pact pointed to three major difficulties facing the Canadian industry, it did not propose any major restructuring of the agreement.

The three major points that the Treasurer made in his budget presentation were the failure of the industry to improve productivity, the steady loss of Canada's share of North American auto assembly activity and the rapid growth of the auto parts trade deficit. It concluded by calling for a regular review of Canada's performance under the pact.

As we pointed out at that time, we do not think a regular review of the pact is either sufficient or useful at this time because, as I said before, in the province of Ontario and in Canada we are producing only 55.1 per cent of the auto parts and the trade deficit in the auto parts industry in 1975 amounted to \$2.5 billion, with a net loss of almost 30,000 jobs in Canada, and specifically in southwestern Ontario, as has been estimated by Mr. Patrick Lavelle, who is the president of the auto parts industry association.

The auto industry is crucial to the development and growth of the economy of this province, but, unfortunately, this government does not understand the problem. I think the problem of unemployment should be dealt with in long-term solutions, as I have proposed before; even though, as the leader

of my party pointed out in his speech, there are some decisions that can be made by the government at this time which can help to overcome the immediate problems of unemployment in the short term.

It has been the practice of governments at all levels—provincial, federal, and municipal—to step up construction of capital projects during periods of relative economic boom, when revenues are rising. In the past, the coincidence of public demand and financial means resulted in project approvals at the same time that the private-sector construction activity was at its peak. This, of course, contributed to inflationary pressures. But now that we are in a crisis, especially in the construction industry, the government is reducing its share in funding public works and therefore is contributing to aggravate the situation of unemployment in this province.

We think public capital projects should be scheduled on a counter-cyclical basis to minimize inflationary pressures in boom periods and maintain employment during excess production capacity and potentially slack periods. This is a time of high unemployment, as I said before, especially in the construction and building materials industry. The government should step in at such a period of slackness to bolster the economy, utilize the unused productive capacity and create employment.

I want to point out that the problem is especially acute in Metropolitan Toronto, where 30 per cent of the workers in the construction industry are unemployed and have no prospect of any change in the immediate future. I should also point out that most of the workers in the construction industry are immigrants who are hard hit because they have no other skills and no possibility of alternative employment because the market doesn't offer any alternative at all. Immigrants are the hardest hit in this society because they have been working in this trade for years—since they came to Canada after World War II. They are penalized because of the lack of commitment of the government in providing adequate funds for this basic industry of our province.

I'd like to point out what long-term proposals I think this government should make in order to face the present economic problems and solve our economic problems. One is the renegotiation of the auto pact. I think this is basic to the development of the industrial sector in this province, and especially of southern Ontario. I think we should also develop a capital goods sector within an economic programme aimed at producing

machinery in Ontario. Our major trade deficit is in the machinery sector; last year Canada had a \$10-billion deficit in this sector.

We should have a programme aimed at producing machinery in Ontario and Canada, so that in a 10-year period we can eliminate our dependency on foreign countries. We should keep down the oil price. This is the direction Ontario has to take if it wants to look forward to solving its economic problems, while at the same time outlining a concrete plan for the future development of the economy of the province.

I urge the government to take action in those areas affecting immigrants in the province of Ontario and in Metropolitan Toronto in particular. Immigrants, because of their condition, are one of the most vulnerable groups in our society. They are suffering the consequences of the present economic crisis, and they are paying a very high price in human, economic and social terms.

Unemployment among immigrant workers in the construction industry, in Metropolitan Toronto and throughout the province, has reached unparalleled and frightening heights in recent months. Thousands of immigrants occupied in marginal jobs, often the only ones available to them, have been laid off and do not find an opportunity to get back to work. A high number of immigrants, especially women, are exploited, working at minimum wage, thanks to the complacency of the government and to its lack of interest and care in introducing and implementing legislation aimed at removing legal, psychological and cultural obstacles to their real integration in our society.

The rate of accidents at the workplace is extremely high among immigrant workers because of the inability of the government to cope with their particular needs in the area of accident prevention. Immigrant workers are also victims of insensitive government policies regarding disabled injured workers. They are receiving totally inadequate benefits from the Workmen's Compensation Board, and are deprived of any provision to match the increase in the cost of living. They are denied any kind of serious rehabilitation, have no right whatsoever to return to their jobs and are seriously handicapped by their cultural and language differences.

Immigrant working women are forced into inhuman experiences in order to accommodate their children during working hours because of the failure of the government to provide adequate day-care centres.

For these reasons, I support our motion and will vote in favour of the motion of no confidence.

Mr. Gaunt: First of all, as is traditional in these debates, I want to pay tribute to the Speaker and to the Deputy Speaker for the work which both do on behalf of the assembly in trying to maintain some semblance of order to the proceedings.

Since you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are in the chair at the moment I want to say to you that you do a very effective job on behalf of the members here. Your rulings are even handed and we appreciate the effort and the fairness with which you deliver the hand of judgement on the occasions that we sit in here.

I want to say to the mover and seconder of the Speech from the Throne that I listened to both speeches with some interest and I want to congratulate both members. To my friend from Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. Johnson) I extend my congratulations because we are political neighbours. I understand the mover particularly is chosen as a person who is on the way up. I want to keep an eye on my friend from Wellington-Dufferin-Peel as he progresses through the halls of power around here. I wish him well.

I wanted to make a few preliminary remarks on a number of topics. I will touch on them very briefly and then move on to the matter with which I wanted to deal at more length, that being the matter of energy and how this province is reacting to what I would call a crisis in the energy field.

Before I get to that, however, I wanted to mention the matter of the Essex Packers affair about which my colleague from Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) asked the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) last week. I want to say to the government that almost everything—indeed everything that I can recall—which we in this party predicted would happen with respect to that matter and the agreement entered into by the government with Better Beef has happened.

First of all, on the matter of jobs, the assignment was given on the basis that 200 jobs in Hamilton would be preserved. Those jobs are gone. Those two plants are closed. That is exactly what we said would happen.

In terms of the creditors, the creditors who agreed to take the 15 cents on the dollar have not been paid the 15 cents. The assets have been dissipated and there isn't enough money to pay the 15 cents. The creditors who refused to take the offer are not going to get anything at all. That is exactly what we pre-

dicted would happen with respect to this matter.

In my mind, there is no question that this entire affair has been a disaster from beginning to end. The first mistake was made by the government when it entered into an agreement with Essex Packers, a company which was very shaky financially at that time. Ultimately, they went into receivership and Better Beef came up with a proposal to save the company and, at the same time, to maintain the 200 jobs in the Hamilton plants, neither of which has been accomplished.

[4:00]

I say that in terms of the government's responsibility and its actions in this respect, it certainly hasn't been looking after the public interest in any way, shape or form.

The other brief matter with which I want to deal is the matter of flood plain mapping. I've had some continuing discussion with the government in respect to this matter. Flood plain mapping is of particular interest in my part of the province because we have two conservation authorities in the area which I happen to have the honour to represent, and the conservation authorities are very much wrapped up in this flood plain mapping.

As it turns out, a lot of the land that could be developed, and should be developed, is seen to be in the flood plain, and hence cannot be developed. It seems to me that where we've got land that hasn't flooded in 100 years or more, even in Hurricane Hazel times, which is the criterion that is being used, it should be allowed to be developed. Indeed, it should be taken out of the flood plain and be allowed to develop, because when it comes right down to the fine point there is no possible way in which the government or anyone else can protect all of our citizens against the eventuality of a flood, no matter when it comes, no matter what time of the year.

To try to do so is sheer folly because it doesn't really accomplish very much, other than drive up land costs and ultimately the price of housing, because it means the available land for such uses is lessened. There isn't as much of it available, and hence the price is greater.

I realize the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. F. S. Miller) is new in the portfolio and that it takes some time to get familiar with these issues. But I say to my friend in Natural Resources that as far as I am concerned the criteria for flood plain mapping are too severe and the government should reassess that entire programme.

In terms of protection and in terms of eventualities, the acts of God if you like,

there is no possible way—even if we were to use the entire money resident with the Treasury over there—to make sure that everyone that is sitting on a piece of property isn't going to get flooded at some time or other. No possible way. All we can do is lessen the risk.

With that proposition, I agree. But to place a lot of the land which is now in the flood plain zone in this province out of reach, in my view does not really make good economic or insurance sense. I just don't think one can take all of the risk out of these things by entering into a programme of this nature. After all, we live in a world where we are faced with risks every day. When one drives down the freeway it's possible for one to have a car accident. When one flies in a plane it is possible to be involved in a plane crash.

Mr. Nixon: That's enough to make a guy stay home on the farm.

Mr. Gaunt: Just to say that because we have the odd car accident and a few people get killed from time to time, no one is going to use a car, or because someone gets killed in a plane crash no one is going to fly, seems to me to be indeed stretching the point.

I want to turn now to the matter of energy, and what we are doing with respect to it in this province. The underpinning of the industrial and agricultural advances in this province over the years has been a cheap energy policy which has seen our development grow and mushroom over the course of the past 30 to 35 years. This period has passed and it's about time that the government recognized it, admitted it and took steps to prepare for the dawning of a new era based on the new objectives and new goals and new technology and some government thrust.

In the longer term, Canada and the world are going to run out of oil and gas. The Ontario government has reacted to this situation by planning for electricity to fill that gap. Fair enough. Electricity is the energy of the future. Since most of the large-scale accessible hydro sites in Ontario are utilized and we have no coal suitable for generating electricity, the provincial government has decided that the only option—and that's the quarrel that I have—decided that the only option was to use uranium to generate electricity via the CANDU reactor.

Indeed, the provincial government's plan is to spend \$40 billion over the next 10 or 15 years on nuclear reactors, transmission lines, and heavy water plants—all the back-up facilities that are needed for this kind of generation. That's \$5,000 for every man,

woman and child in the province. This represents nearly a seven-fold increase of Ontario's present \$6-billion assets and over 100 times Canada's share of the St. Lawrence Seaway cost.

The consequences of this massive commitment of money, technical expertise, materials and institutional management are becoming apparent to many people in the province. There are those who say—and I'm one of them—that while nuclear power is one acceptable alternative to produce electricity, it is by no means the only alternative, and that to pursue it as the only alternative is going to be just as dangerous for us as if we had stuck to oil and gas as our major sources until all supplies of both were exhausted.

To pursue Ontario Hydro's and the Ontario government's present course in energy production is going to lead us down the path to disaster. Nuclear power production should be one arsenal in the total energy programme of the government. But the alternative energy programmes of conservation and solar energy would provide some balance to the programme.

For example, if Ontario invests \$11 billion over the next 20 years in conservation, by making appliances, homes, offices and industries more energy efficient, we would save \$22 billion in nuclear investment. Appliances can be made 15 to 40 per cent more efficient. That costs money, but it costs less than trying to build more nuclear stations to continue to supply inefficient appliances.

Similarly, with residential and office heating it costs money to insulate and to build more efficiently in the first place. Yet with Hydro rates going up 60 per cent in the next three years—and more moderately thereafter, I hope—it simply means people will not be able to afford electricity for residence energy and industry, because using large quantities of energy will simply mean becoming even less competitive than we are now.

We can't afford to have all our eggs in the nuclear basket; this government had better wake up to that fact soon. A greater use of renewable energy sources, particularly solar heating, is a must.

As John Bulloch Jr. has said—and there are many things with which I disagree. John Bulloch is a very intelligent individual; he is rather right-wing at times and certainly all of the things he says I don't endorse, but with this one I think he has hit it pretty well on the head.

John Bulloch has said: "Nuclear power means high-capacity, centralized generating

stations in the hands of big government or its agencies." Nuclear power, in other words, is synonymous with a philosophy of concentration of power. Mr. Bulloch continued: "Solar power, on the other hand, is ideally suited for deconcentration of population and growth of smaller communities, because each home or community would have, in effect, its own generating station. Solar-powered homes and communities can be located anywhere without concern for loss of power and transmission, and the manufacture, installation and servicing of these solar power systems would provide work for tens of thousands of small firms."

And, after all, the cornerstone of this province is the small businessman, not the multi-national corporation.

Mr. Ferrier: I thought it was the farmer, Murray.

Mr. Gaunt: This is one industry—well, the farmer's a small businessman.

Mr. Roy: You should know that. I guess maybe you shouldn't.

Mr. Nixon: I hear you're a full-time member.

Mr. Gaunt: "This is one industry that should be Canadian owned and controlled. The choice is clear: by opting for nuclear power, we will have tied ourselves to big institutions. Solar power provides the flexibility needed in the future. Solar power, therefore, is the perfect example of appropriate technology in Canada."

There has been opposition to nuclear power production on the basis of the dangers of radioactive emissions, the problems of storage and disposal of the high-level radioactive waste, the possibility of reactor accidents and, hence, thermal pollution. All of these things are the subject of justifiable public debate.

However, the major point of opposition at this point is clear and easily understood. We simply can't afford an all-nuclear system. Nuclear power is 50 to 100 times as capital intensive as the traditional direct fossil fuel system on which industrial economies have been built. This capital intensity is much greater than for the big fossil fuel electrical systems, but both kinds are so costly to build that, as the strategic planners of the Shell Group in London concluded several years ago, "No major country outside the Persian Gulf can afford ever to electrify most of its economy." Nuclear power, like coal synthetics, oil shale and tar sands, is so complex and

costly that nobody can afford it on a big scale. It is a future technology whose time has passed.

In the same article, it goes on to say that because of this great capital intensity, if we try to build many reactors, electricity must become so dear that people cannot afford to buy much of it or else not enough money will be left over in the economy to build the non-energy devices that were supposed to use all the electricity or both.

For example, President Ford's 1976-1985 US energy programme would cost a current GNP year one trillion dollars in today's dollars, three-quarters of it for electrification. Thus, nearly two-thirds of all money traditionally available for the US investment in houses, roads, schools, hospitals, factories, everything else outside the energy sector, would have to be consumed by that sector alone. The author goes on to say that for fundamental economic as well as political reason, nuclear power is already dead in the United States. Mr. Carter's energy policy will be coming out on April 20. I guess that's next week. Perhaps we'll have a better insight into just what's going to happen south of the border with respect to new energy directions.

[4:15]

Last June, I had the privilege of attending the Habitat conference in British Columbia—the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, in Vancouver. One of the many speeches that was delivered at that time was on the nuclear question and was given by Amory Lovins, who is a consultant physicist concentrating on energy and resource strategy. He has collaborated with several UN agencies, the International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Study and the Science Council of Canada. He is a very eminent gentleman indeed and certainly a very well-qualified person to speak on this topic.

Some of his observations are worth noting. Mr. Lovins stated that conserving energy, especially in developed countries—which covers the United States and Canada—is a much cheaper, more benign, more effective supplement to fossil fuels than is nuclear power during the period of bridging to whatever comes next and is, indeed, essential. He states that a diverse range of soft energy technologies, those that rely on energy income rather than energy capital, could meet practically all our energy needs about 50 years from now at reasonable cost and with essentially zero risk of technical failure.

Because these soft technologies are comparatively small and simple, we could build them much faster than an equivalent capacity of high technology. Enough soft technologies are already available and enough others soon will be so that we could start deploying them now.

Mr. Lovins stated that if we continue the nuclear power course much longer we foreclose—and I think this is important—we foreclose the soft option by delaying it so long that we shall no longer have enough readily available fossil fuels to form a credible bridge.

Mr. Lovins saw a three-pronged energy strategy as the answer: First, a wide-ranging energy conservation programme. Second, start without delay a large programme to develop, demonstrate and deploy a wide range of small-scale energy income technologies, making full use of existing technological resources. Top priority should go first to solar heating and cooling; organic conversion, especially methanol, for the transport section; and sophisticated wind technologies. Progress on harder technologies, such as geothermal and photothermal conversion, has been very rapid lately and people who say soft technologies are all far in the future are very much out of touch.

Efficient solar heating is commercially available and is now cheaper than electric heating in the United States, most of Europe and even in Canada. In some areas, it is cheaper than direct fuel heating. The barriers to its use are no longer technical or economical but institutional—the building codes, the architects who really haven't caught up yet, mortgage regulations—all of those sorts of things.

Third, during the 40 to 50 years it takes to construct an economy of energy income, we should use fossil fuels in transitional technologies adaptable to the soft technologies, so that we can plug them in as they arrive.

Lovins predicts the United States will move in the next five years—it's that close he thinks—to turn off nuclear power all over the world. Such an effort could succeed because essentially all countries' nuclear programmes depend on each other and, ultimately, on the United States for either technical or political support. In essence, Lovins proposed a prompt redirection of national resources towards the wise and efficient use of energy and towards its extraction from renewable sources.

Finally, he concluded that we choose technologies that reflect human values under

human control and not those promoted by technologists who can't distinguish "can" from "should."

I suggest that Lovins has an excellent grasp of the issues and has thought the matter through very carefully. It seems to me, in summary, that Ontario and Canada have basically three alternative directions for energy policy decisions.

One, we can continue with our present policy of promoting large-scale energy developments in which large amounts of energy and capital are invested. This option, in my view, will lead to disaster economically, politically and socially for all of us.

Two is a modified version of the first but with heavier emphasis on conservation. However, this still would entail heavy investment in the nuclear programme, which I think would be unwise and would make us and our energy supply vulnerable since we would have essentially all our eggs in one basket.

Three would put the major emphasis on renewable sources of energy. They have the advantage of diversity. Development costs in terms of money and energy are lower than with conventional fuels. This change obviously will not be made overnight. A combination of serious energy conservation and efficient use of fossil fuels would be used as a bridge to the point where renewable energy has been broadly introduced.

These are important issues for this government. I have stated before that, in my view, in the next five to six years the most important ministries in this government are the ministries of Energy and Environment, and I maintain that that is so. I think the next few years are crucial. If this province is going to maintain its industrial base at all, then we have to come to grips with our environment and with these energy questions. If we don't, then I suggest that our standard of living is going to suffer, our unemployment is going to continue to rise and we are going to recede dramatically as an industrial province in this country.

The Minister of Energy (Mr. Taylor) has an unusually heavy responsibility to give leadership in this vital area. Unfortunately, so far his performance has done little to inspire me.

Mr. Roy: All of us.

Mr. Gaunt: I think he is going to have to come to grips with some of these things which he hasn't dealt with so far. These things are certainly not going to be accomplished by mediocre leadership. The problem is that

really this whole government is afflicted with the mediocrity syndrome.

Mr. Roy: A terrible sickness.

Mr. Nixon: Mediocrity.

Mr. Gaunt: I suppose one could say it's a collection of mediocrity with only a slight dash of humility, although many on the government front benches have much to be humble about indeed.

Mr. Ruston: Look at the Provincial Secretary for National Resources over there.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: You don't mean that.

Mr. Nixon: He can still smile anyway. It is a very humble front bench right now.

Mr. Maeck: Somebody must have written that for him. That doesn't sound like the member for Huron-Bruce. He never speaks like that.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: He had great difficulty because he didn't have his heart in that.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue and ignore the interjections.

Mr. Gaunt: I just wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the Attorney General would want me to repeat that in case he missed it.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I was listening very carefully.

Mr. Gaunt: I am not saying he would be included in that comment.

Mr. Roy: He would, no doubt.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member will continue and ignore the interjections.

Mr. Roy: His track record as AG or as a counsel leaves something to be desired.

Mr. Gaunt: In any event, I am almost through but I do want to impress upon you, Mr. Speaker, that in my view the question of energy is a vital one. I would urge the government to come to grips with it immediately. I don't think we have any time to waste and that our survival as an industrial province is at stake.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am very honoured, very privileged, and very pleased to participate in this very important debate.

I think it goes without saying that the quality of administration of justice in this province is of paramount concern to all of the members of the Legislature. I should say, in opening, that I, personally, have been very pleased—during the 18 months in which I've had the privilege of occupying my office—with the very genuine interest that has been expressed by the members on all sides of the House in relation to the many problems facing the administration of justice in this province.

In particular, I'd like to express my own personal gratitude to the justice critics in the two opposition parties for their very helpful suggestions from time to time, and to express the view that at all times I have felt they have been truly motivated by what was in the best interests of the public of Ontario in relation to the administration of justice. Partisan politics, at all times, achieved a very small dimension in their participation.

Mr. Laughren: They would make good ministers.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Yes, I think both of them would, at the appropriate time, whenever that may be.

Mr. Lawlor: We justice people are above party animosity.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Exactly, Mr. Speaker. At the same time, I would also like to express, through them, my appreciation to the members of the justice committee for the very positive manner in which they've approached matters. We've had occasions when we've had the opportunity of sharing, whether it be estimates or very important family law legislation before the House.

Her Honour, in the Speech from the Throne, announced the intention of the government to proceed with legislation to reorganize the administration of the courts in the province of Ontario. During the last session of the assembly I tabled a white paper on courts administration. The white paper introduced a new concept for the reorganization of the administration of justice in Ontario. As the members know, the white paper also included a draft statute and invited comment from the public and from those particularly interested in the subject of court administration.

Since the tabling of these proposals, I have received comment from a number of quarters. I have met with a number of law associations, representatives of the Advocates' Society—on two occasions that I can recall—as well as having a number of meetings with senior judges and judges throughout the sys-

tem. As a result of that comment and further consideration, I will be introducing to this assembly a slightly revised bill which will, however, reflect the principles of the original proposals.

The new statute, when reintroduced, will stress two principles: The independence of the judiciary and the public ministerial accountability of the government to this assembly for the administration of justice. While I will soon have the privilege of placing the new legislation before you, I would like to take this opportunity to bring home to you the general approach of the government as outlined in the white paper.

I would like to put this approach in the general context of the experience of courts administrations systems, particularly in the United States and, perhaps more particularly, in Great Britain, because the white paper adopts a good deal of the approach taken in the English Courts Act of 1971. Because of that, I took the opportunity recently to have a look at the English system, particularly at the office of the Lord Chancellor, which provides a unique administrative focus for the entire English legal system.

[4:30]

One of my most important areas of exploration was a series of discussions with the staff of the Lord Chancellor and with the Lord Chancellor himself—Lord Elwyn-Jones—who, despite his social leanings, is truly a most distinguished gentleman.

Mr. Lawlor: It is because of them, for heaven's sake. He's the most contemporary person in the modern world. That is where you get lost.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I am very proud to report to the members of this House that Lord Elwyn-Jones and his senior staff demonstrated a very deep interest in the problems of the administration of justice in Ontario and, more particularly, in the approach taken in our white paper.

Many of the very exciting court reforms which have taken place in England since 1971 depend for their working effectiveness on the unique institution of the Lord Chancellor and his office. Because we lack the structure and the tradition of that unique constitutional office, it is necessary to examine the actual function of that office to ensure that we provide in Ontario a structure suitable to our traditions, which will fulfil the key role in courts administration performed in England by the Lord Chancellor.

As many of the members of the Legislature will know, the office of the Lord Chancellor is indeed a constitutional anomaly. The very existence of his office is an affront to many traditional constitutional theories about separation of the powers between the government and the judiciary. For example, the Lord Chancellor is a member of cabinet, a member of the House of Lords and a judge at the same time. He is not only a judge but is, in fact, at the top of the entire judicial hierarchy; and in terms of precedent, he actually ranks ahead of the Prime Minister.

Although he exercises a wide range of really very staggering responsibilities, perhaps the most important of all—at least from the point of view of my examination of his office—is his responsibility for the court system. His department is responsible for ensuring the proper functioning of the courts from an administrative point of view, including the flow of cases through the courts, the staffing of courts, the providing of suitable accommodation and the hundreds of other details which go into the operating of a complex court system.

The present Lord Chancellor had also been Attorney General under two previous Labour governments and therefore, of course, has had a great deal of experience in parliamentary matters. His views with respect to parliamentary accountability, as well as the necessity of a centralized court structure, were therefore of great interest to me.

The Lord Chancellor and his office have been at the centre of one of the most significant efforts towards court reform which has taken place anywhere in recent years. For years the English court system had suffered from a fragmentation of jurisdiction and a labyrinthine network of courts which had grown up since the Middle Ages. Courts administration was divided among a number of separate institutions and local authorities, and there was no unified system of courts administration, either for court personnel or courthouses and court accommodation, with the exception of the country courts, which had been administered by the Lord Chancellor's office since the 1920s.

The Lord Chancellor in 1966, Lord Gardiner, was faced with a number of problems, including the constant postponing of civil work because of the heavy demands of criminal cases, the conflict of dates for hearings, which of course not only led to great inconvenience to the parties but in many cases led to the parties themselves be-

ing deprived of counsel of their choice, and a number of other problems which have a familiar ring in virtually every developed country with a legal system based on common-law principles.

The British government set up a royal commission under the chairmanship of Lord Beeching, who had demonstrated great energy and imagination in a radical shake-up and rationalization of the British Railways system. The members of the Beeching commission took a very strong statistical approach to their terms of reference, and addressed themselves to questions such as delays before trial, why cases were postponed, to what extent the trial time was related to the type of case, and a host of other concerns which are now generally referred to under the rubric of case-flow management.

The Beeching commission recommended a general reorganization and simplification of the structure of the courts. But one of the central recommendations—and I think perhaps the most important recommendation of all—was a unified administration of all of the courts. And if I may quote briefly: "We regard control by a single minister, coupled with the creation and maintenance of an efficient administrative service responsible for all aspects of court administration, as essential for our proposed reorganization."

The Beeching report led to the passage of The Courts Act of 1971, which provided for a unified managerial control under the administrative aspects of the courts under the Lord Chancellor, whose office is responsible for the operation of the courts through the development of sound managerial policies and the development of professional court administrators throughout the system. I think it is rather important to emphasize the reliance placed on the concept of unified administrative control by the Beeching commission, as reflected in the new court system.

Now the English system is, of course, as many of the members will appreciate, a good deal different from the American approach. The American Constitution is based on the doctrine of the separation of powers, and the courts, the Legislature, and the executive are there for separate and equal branches of government. For this reason, the administrative office of the United States courts has been able to function as an almost purely judicial control of the administration of federal courts.

In England the rather delicate tension between the judicial and executive functions as contained in the office of the Lord Chancellor is as stated a constitutional anomaly,

but one which appears to have worked very well, largely, I suppose, because of its very long historical tradition.

Those members who are familiar with the background of courts administration in Ontario will be familiar with the evolution, over the last 10 years, of a new approach in this province to the delicate balance in courts administration between the functions of the government—more particularly the Ministry of the Attorney General—and the functions of the judiciary. From 1968, when responsibility for courts administration was transferred from local governments to the provincial government through the report of the Ontario Law Reform Commission on courts administration, through the development of our courts administration projects in the central west area under the authority of The Administration of Courts Project Act, 1975, and culminating in the issue of our white paper on courts administration, we have been gradually working out the appropriate balance of accountability and authority that will be necessary to achieve effective and efficient operation of the courts while preserving the fundamental principles of judicial independence.

Because of the obvious importance of courts administration, I have sent a copy of the white paper, which includes a discussion of proposed legislation, to every member of the legal profession in Ontario. A number of comments have been received from various sources. From the handful of formal comments, together with a large number of personal discussions with members of the legal profession, I do discern general support for our approach, subject of course to a few reservations on matters of organization.

I think at this point it might be helpful to discuss briefly the background and approach taken by the white paper, an approach which in my view has largely been validated and confirmed by our recent examination of the workings of the English system.

As I indicated earlier, the basis of the new approach arose from our experience in the development of a model court administrative structure in the central west region, a group of 10 counties and judicial districts clustering around Hamilton. Authority for the project, as I have already stated, flowed from the administration of The Courts Project Act, 1975. As stated in section 2 of that Act the purpose was to enable the establishment of a development project in the region for the central co-ordination of the administrative facilities and services of the courts for a more effective operation of the courts, sub-

ject of course to the traditional independence of the judges. In short, the project was designed to determine whether effective court reform could be achieved with the traditional division of authority—the Ministry of the Attorney General on the one hand to have control over strictly administrative matters, and the judiciary to control matters bearing on adjudication.

The results of the project have been carefully evaluated and the project has, I think, effectively demonstrated that we do need a new approach for courts administration in this province if we are to clear the backlogs in various parts of the court system. We certainly require a new approach to the flow of cases through the courts.

I have stated on a number of occasions that the case-load crisis facing the courts of this province does have the potential to seriously undermine the quality of justice in Ontario. At the same time I want to emphasize that there is a broad consensus that this crisis can only be effectively met by significant court reforms which must continue to include the application of new management techniques to the ever increasing workloads of the courts. While, of course, we must emphasize that justice can never be sacrificed for administrative efficiency, we nevertheless recognize that we can still do a great deal to improve the quality of justice by applying modern management techniques to the business of the courts.

However, as stated, the central west project has demonstrated that the present artificial division of the business of the courts simply cannot provide the basis for significant court reform. The courts are presently divided between purely administrative matters on the one hand and quasi-administrative, quasi-judicial matters on the other hand. Theoretically the purely administrative matters are managed by civil servants, and the quasi-administrative, quasi-judicial matters such as the times that a court sits, or the way the cases are adjourned, or the way that trial dates are set, are decided by judges.

While perhaps laudable in theory these distinctions have proven unsatisfactory in practice. Obviously therefore neither effective case load management nor true court reform can be dependent or based on such artificial distinctions. In our view the only way to achieve an effective unified approach is to consolidate the administrative management of the courts including the quasi-administrative, quasi-judicial matters into a single structure.

[4:45]

You will note, of course, the similarity of these conclusions with the conclusions reached by the Beeching commission and by the British government. I think it is very significant that two different jurisdictions sharing a common heritage and many of the same problems have chosen a basically similar approach. It should be obvious that the unified management of all these matters cannot be consolidated in the hands of the Attorney General, or indeed in any other minister of the Crown, for our entire court system is premised on the principle of the independence of the judiciary. That principle includes the proposition that judges cannot take direction from the government with respect to any judicial matter that arises in relation to the trial of a case. While judges cannot take direction or guidance from the government in these matters, they can and must take direction and guidance from senior members of the judiciary. For that matter, in my view, the only logical place to consolidate the management of the courts is in a body comprised of the senior members of the judiciary, but a body that would have to be backed up with the necessary resources from a standpoint of administrative and management techniques.

I want to make it very clear at this juncture that I recognize, as do members opposite, particularly the justice critics of the opposition parties, that judges being lawyers originally are not trained in administrative and management techniques. I want to make it very clear that our proposals are not dependent upon any necessary degree of management training or administrative training. But the truth of the matter is that judges throughout the system do exercise administrative techniques in many different ways and almost quite autonomously, often on a very ad hoc basis.

We recognize that senior judges and the judicial council can perform these important responsibilities only if they are backed up by the necessary resources from an administrative standpoint. If we had a Lord Chancellor our choice would be perhaps as easy and as obvious as the choice of the British government in consolidating authority in the person and in the office of the Lord Chancellor.

Mr. Lawlor: Why don't you appoint yourself Lord Chancellor?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: If you would be prepared to support it—

Mr. Lawlor: No, I am not.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —we could consider that option.

Mr. Cunningham: Agreed.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Because we are not blessed with the constitutional anomaly of the Lord Chancellor's function, our only choice in order to preserve the fundamental heritage of judicial independence is to consolidate authority in the senior judges of this province which, quite frankly, will also involve a great degree more of accountability on the part of the individual judge throughout the system.

At the same time, we must preserve the fundamental constitutional accountability to the Legislative Assembly for the administration of public institutions and public funds under our system of government. That accountability must continue to flow, and must always flow, through a minister of the Crown who is also a member of the Legislative Assembly, someone who must answer in the Legislative Assembly for the administration of public institutions and public funds.

Mr. Singer: When he is asked questions.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: For that reason, we must maintain a strong element of ministerial accountability. I regard that as a crucial matter for the courts, through the office of the Attorney General, after this legislation, hopefully, becomes a law of this province. I want to make it clear that I for one, as the Attorney General for this province, would be most loath to support any legislation which in any way sought to diminish that very crucial responsibility and accountability. Therefore, under the proposed system the public accountability which the British achieve through the office of the Lord Chancellor would continue to rest with the Attorney General.

But again, as I've already stated, because we lack the unique office of a Lord Chancellor we must propose and consider a structure which would maintain, institutionally and hopefully in a harmony of working parts, the delicate and the essential balance between judicial independence and political accountability. I shall return to this essential point after outlining the basic proposals contained in the white paper, basic principles that will be contained in the legislation which I intend to introduce in a very short period of time as stated by Her Honour in the Throne Speech.

The white paper, explains the need for reorganization, sets out the details of the government's proposals for reorganization and concludes with a draft of legislation a design to implement these proposals. The basic proposals, which will be slightly modified by the

bill which I intend to introduce, are as follows:

First, that the day-to-day administrative, financial and operational aspects of courts administration would be transferred from the Ministry of the Attorney General to an office of courts administration, headed by a judicial council.

Second, the judicial council, as set out in the white paper, would consist of the Chief Justice of Ontario as chairman, the Chief Justice of the High Court, the chief judge of the county court, a county court judge appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council—if the legislation is passed I think you could well speculate who that might be, if this proposal becomes law—the chief judge of the provincial court, criminal division, and the chief judge of the provincial court, family division.

Third, the judicial council will be given authority and responsibility for establishing and applying policy directives on all administrative matters, whether the actions required are those of court personnel or those of individual judges.

Fourth, the office of courts administration would carry out the day-to-day administrative, financial and operational aspects of courts administration under a director of courts administration responsible to the judicial council. The director of courts administration would be a public servant with the status of a deputy minister, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Attorney General and removed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council upon the recommendation of the judicial council.

Mr. Singer: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if I could ask the Attorney General a question?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I have no objection.

Mr. Acting Speaker: It is highly unusual to place questions during this type of debate. It would be up to the Attorney General if he wishes to accept one.

Mr. Roy: Of course, it is unusual to hear the Attorney General in the Throne Speech debate.

Mr. Singer: I wonder if the Attorney General would consider the inclusion of lay representation on the council in addition to the representation he's outlined?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the proposal does not contain that. I anticipate that

that will be a subject for debate when the legislation is introduced to the House.

But I would like to say at this time, because I think it's certainly something that's going to be very germane in the debate, that the difficulty with the proposal, while it appears to have enormous attraction from the standpoint of public participation, is that we are faced with the dilemma of non-judicial persons directing the judiciary. The judiciary has adopted the attitude—and I must state quite frankly that I'm very sympathetic to that attitude—that the direction of judges by non-judges does strike, in their view, at the independence of the judiciary. Certainly, all the discussions and the briefs I have had from the judiciary of this province make that point very clear: that a judicial council made up of lay representation will be dealing not only with day-to-day policy decisions, but with some very sensitive matters involving the conduct of judges and, of course, disciplinary matters.

I might say, for those who have taken the interest—and I hope that includes many members of the Legislature—that the whole area of discipline, or the provisions for discipline, in the draft legislation, which is part of the white paper, is being reworked, because I think that it has to be improved, quite frankly, compared to how it presently stands. It's my hope that the advisory council, which I'm going to refer to next, will involve that public input, which is so essential.

I want to stress the need for the involvement of the members of this Legislature in the administration and in reminding the Attorney General—as most of you do so effectively on a day-to-day basis—of my accountability in relation to expenditure of public funds in the administration of justice. I think the crucial element of lay participation can be accomplished on a continuing basis through the advisory committee and through the participation of this Legislature in an institution which is of such fundamental importance to the community as a whole.

The advisory committee, which would report to the Attorney General, would be established to review the work of the office of courts administration and to initiate studies in relation to various aspects of courts administration and procedure. The Lieutenant Governor in Council would retain the power to appoint judicial officers and those court officials who are presently appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Finally, the government would retain overall authority and responsibility in relation to the administration of justice. I think this is essential.

Government must retain overall authority and responsibility in relation to the administration of justice through its fiscal, legislative and other controls, such as the standards of the Civil Service Commission.

This white paper is a major and essential step before legislation is introduced to implement a reorganization of courts administration. The legislation is going to be introduced, and I hope that within the next two or three weeks all members of the Legislature will avail themselves of the opportunity of looking at, and carefully considering, the white paper.

The discussion to date, as I've already indicated, has raised concerns around the issues of judicial independence and ministerial accountability. I hope that these principles will be given greater effect—greater emphasis—in the bill which I will be introducing.

These principles are not, of course, ends in themselves; they simply exist to safeguard the public interest in the administration of justice. And following up the learned member for Wilson Heights' question, I want to stress that, obviously, it should never be forgotten or overlooked that our courts belong to the public, that they exist solely to serve the public. It is essential, therefore, that all of us who serve the public should examine with care these proposals for the future development of their courts, because the issues raised are so central to our fundamental liberties.

[5:00]

A moment ago I referred to the essential and delicate balance between ministerial responsibility and judicial independence. This is not the only area where the new system must achieve a fair and effective working balance. I think that one of the commentators on the new English system put it very well when he said:

"What does seem clear is that programming problems can never be solved entirely by the imposition of authority, but that they involve a mixture of authority, calculation, hunch and persuasion.

"The Beeching commission did a good job in recommending a rational framework within which all this could operate. The Lord Chancellor's department has done a good job in setting it up. Its operation, however, seems to involve more subtle and various considerations than are described in the Beeching report—in fact"—and I think, Mr. Speaker, this is very important—"not only a system of authority but a system of relationships. There is the responsibility of the Lord Chancellor to

Parliament; there is the independence of the judiciary and of both branches of the legal profession and the rights of the various parties who come before the courts.

"What is required is the maintenance of a delicate balance between all these, whether in the programming of individual cases locally or in planning and controlling the whole system nationally."

I've stated at the outset that I believe this government is committed to the development of a new system of courts administration which can best serve the public by providing the machinery for achieving these essential balances. As members of this assembly, we all obviously have a very deep responsibility to the public to create a structure which will continue to promote the achievement of these balances.

Because of its newness, and because of its fundamental importance to all aspects of the administration of justice, I have focused my remarks on the courts administration proposals. In doing so I hope that I have not in any way minimized the importance of our other initiatives.

I am thinking, first, of our initiatives in family law reform. As you know, Mr. Speaker, they have been reintroduced in this assembly after a great deal of discussion, debate and public comment during the last session. I say nothing further about them now except that they are before you and, I repeat, that they do represent a very real advancement in the principles of fairness and equality in family law. I welcome the opportunity of carrying these reforms into law this session.

I should point out that not all of our recent and ongoing initiatives and advances have been legislative in nature. While, for example, the unified family court proposals did involve legislation in the last session, our encouragement of the family law division of the Supreme Court of Ontario has been accomplished without the need for legislation. Measures such as the reorganization and restructuring of the Crown attorney system into a more cohesive and responsive structure; the development of plans for a decentralizing of the Crown attorney system in Metropolitan Toronto, which hears about half of the criminal cases in Ontario; the development of a system of pre-trial discovery in criminal matters through various pilot projects; and, more important, our recent instructions to the Crown attorneys with respect to pre-trial disclosures, also have been accomplished without the necessity of introducing legislation.

One of the most important domains of the emerging public interest involves, of course, the complex issues of freedom of information and rights to privacy. You have our background paper on these issues prepared by members of the Ministry of the Attorney General, and I commend it to you, Mr. Speaker, as an example of the kind of hard, innovative thinking that must be done as the essential background of any major law reform in this area. I truly hope again that all members, most particularly the distinguished member for Lakeshore, will carefully peruse that background paper on not only the freedom of information but the equally important consideration of citizens' right to privacy.

Although I don't want to get into a debate now on the proposed bill from the member for Lakeshore—

Mr. Lawlor: You sure ask an awful lot of questions. You are a questioner; there are whole pages of questions.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I hope he will see the wisdom of combining in one Act these essential principles of freedom of information on the one hand and the citizens' right to privacy on the other hand. I hope he will not urge upon the members of the Legislature that we pursue the mistaken course—a course that is now acknowledged by most knowledgeable commentators in the United States to be the wrong course. I hope, therefore, that he will recognize this and that indeed he will want to withdraw his bill during the time that this very important commission—

Mr. Laughren: You are being provocative.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —not only dealing with freedom of information but also with privacy, does have the opportunity—

Mr. Lawlor: You have been in office too long—33 years.

Mr. Roy: I've got a feeling you are not going to win this case.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —of perusing and considering this very complex area before, as I say, we blunder into the same mistakes that have been made in other jurisdictions. We can learn from the mistakes of others—

Mr. Lawlor: This is a temporizing thing.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —and I hope that the member for Lakeshore does not persist in

clinging to the same mistakes that have been made south of the border.

Mr. Roy: Do you think you are going to win that one?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Other initiatives which I intend to bring forward this session include proposals for a new Limitations Act to simplify and clarify the time within which legal actions must be brought, proposals regarding occupiers' liability to simplify and clarify the rights and obligations of those who occupy land and the rights and obligations of those who go upon the land of others—

Mr. Makarchuk: When are you introducing the legislation?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —and an Act to protect employees from the administration of lie detector tests by employers.

Mr. Makarchuk: When is the legislation coming in?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: This legislation will be introduced in the next few weeks and—

Mr. Warner: Right after the headlines.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I certainly—I'm sorry; does the—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will ignore the comments and continue.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Does the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere have a helpful suggestion?

Mr. Warner: I have many.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will ignore the interjections and continue.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: These are just some of the initiatives which I will bring forward this session to continue the momentum and advance of the pace of law reform in the province of Ontario. Law reform is of course essential if we are to build in this province, and continue to build in this province, a community which continues to satisfy the ends of justice.

In conclusion, I cannot put it better than it was put almost a century and a half ago in the British Parliament by one of the great

pioneers of law reform, Lord Brougham. I quote:

"It was the boast of Augustus that he found Rome a brick and left it a marble, a praise not unworthy of a great prince and to which the present reign also has its claims; but how much nobler will be the sovereign's boast when he shall have to say that he found law dear and left it cheap; found it a sealed book and left it a living letter; found it the patrimony of the rich and left it the inheritance of the poor; found it the two-edged sword of craft and oppression and left it the staff of honesty as a shield of innocence."

Mr. Makarchuk: Marvellous.

Mr. Acting Speaker: The hon. member for Nickel Belt.

Mr. Samis: Now the language of the people.

Mr. Roy: If the Attorney General gets carried away, he might build a court house in Ottawa. That would be something.

Mr. Sargent: The first thing he can do is shoot all the lawyers.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: It was appropriate that I was here to hear the Attorney General's closing remarks. Strangely enough, in my opening remarks I want to deal with freedom of information. I want to talk about three specific problems, not all related as directly to the Throne Speech as freedom of information. I will close off with a quote too at the end of my brief remarks on freedom of information.

The Throne Speech referred to a review that would be undertaken, which has already begun, I understand. The machinery is being put into motion. We feel that is a needless delay on the part of the government, and that it could have been implemented without that review. I'd like to use a specific example that occurred in the Sudbury area in which information was withheld from the public needlessly, and I suspect that most members of the government would agree it was needless when they hear the details.

Back in 1973 there was a train wreck in the town of Dowling near Sudbury. There was a spill of something. It had to do with diesel oil and a transformer. The transformer contained something called PCBs or polychlorinated biphenyls, which are a very dangerous carcinogen. After the spill, the transformers lay on the ground for a few days. Then the Minister of the Environment

proceeded to do testing into the spill. This is a chronological order of how the Ministry of the Environment conducted their monitoring and why I think they have been—I hesitate to use the word but I really do feel I must—irresponsible in withholding information from the public. When they see how needlessly the information was withheld I think that the government members too would agree with me.

The spill occurred on November 9, 1973. The initial clean-up—and these are notes from the Ministry of the Environment—including removal of debris, diesel oil and transformer fluid, was completed by the spring of 1974.

A follow-up inspection survey was initiated in the spring of 1975, which indicated that further investigation was warranted. By November, 1975, monitoring logs were located at the site and detailed investigations were sufficiently complete to indicate that further clean-up was required.

So there we had an indication in the spring of 1975 that further investigation was warranted and that in the fall of 1975 that further clean-up was required. Then in 1976 there was a further investigation to indicate that yet, a further clean-up was required. Then during 1976 it was indicated the clean-up would have to be even more extensive than that envisaged in the previous year.

During all this time the Ministry of the Environment did not tell the public that PCBs had been spilled into the environment and were draining through the ground. One has to wonder why the Ministry of the Environment withheld that information. Certainly it wasn't because there was any political liability attached to the Ministry of the Environment. They were not the cause of the train wreck. They were on the job doing their checking early after the wreck. It would not have caused the public to panic if they had announced that PCBs had been spilled into the environment and were draining down through the ground. Rather, the reason they withheld the information—and I can only surmise this from discussions with ministry officials and in letters from the Minister of the Environment—was that they assumed they had the kind of expertise to make the decision as to what should be released to the public and what should be withheld from the public. In this case, they decided deliberately to withhold information from the public that there were PCBs in the environment.

[5:15]

It was a needless refusal. I must say that if they had disclosed the nature of the spill

there are people in the Sudbury area, from the public, some in the immediate area of the spill, others in the community at large, who understood very clearly the problems of PCBs.

I have a chemist friend who understood it before 1973 even and who would have done some work on it. I believe we could have convinced the Ministry of the Environment that at that point they should have commenced a massive soil removal programme, rather than a monitoring programme. That, of course, did not happen. In other words, the results could not have been worse if they had given the information to the public.

I believe that the principle of the right to know here was terribly important. That principle was violated, and so needlessly. If the information had been forthcoming, the pressure in the community would have, I believe forced the Minister of the Environment to act a lot faster than he did and to have the soil removed at the expense of the Canadian Pacific Railway. As it turns out now, they have had to issue an order under The Environmental Protection Act. They've got 25 days, I believe it is, to respond to the order, and the soil is still sitting there.

We know now, as a result of tests this spring, 1977, that PCBs are in the water table. There's no such thing as removing PCBs from the water table. There is no communal water supply in the community and as yet no individual wells have PCBs in them. I wouldn't be alarmist in that respect; but the fact remains that there are PCB's in the water table, and once it gets in the water table it is not possible to contain it in any way.

It's going to get into the local supply chain. A river goes by there, there's a lake into which the river flows; it's a matter of time until it gets into the larger water supply and into the food chain through fish. It concentrates in fish as it goes through the food chain, and that makes it terribly dangerous.

The problem is I don't think the ministry has learned anything. Despite the announcement in the Throne Speech that they were going to have freedom of information, when I phoned up the officials after the public meeting on March 3 in which they admitted all this, the ministry officials in Sudbury said: "Oh yes, we can send you that information"—I had asked for all the data on the spill—"but first of all it has to go through the minister's office in Toronto." Why information to the public—not just because I'm the

member representing that area but any member of the public—why shouldn't the local office be able to provide that information? It was all ready; they had already said what it was at the public meeting.

So then I wrote to the Minister of the Environment, and in part of his reply to me he said: "In this particular incident, there was no contaminated material in the ground water system until 1977 and it was not felt necessary to make special reference to this spill until such time as the situation developed to the point where there could be some concern in terms of a health hazard."

Mr. Martel: It certainly does.

Mr. Laughren: There are people in that community who could have told the Minister of the Environment back in 1973 that there should have been some concern for a health hazard, and here is the minister saying there was no health hazard until it reached the water table. That's a ludicrous statement for the Minister of the Environment to make. I know you would agree with me, Mr. Speaker, that if we are serious about providing freedom of information to the public with no threat to the privacy of anyone—

Mr. Mancini: Don't lead the Speaker on. The Speaker can make up his own mind. The Speaker has to be impartial.

Mr. Laughren: Oh, keep your irrelevancies to yourself. Put them in your pocket.

Mr. Speaker, there was no question of any breach of the privilege of privacy in this incident, and yet the Minister of the Environment persisted in keeping the information from the public. That is something that really must change, and the Ministry of the Environment truly does stand condemned in this case.

I promised that I would end with a quote, the way the Attorney General (Mr. McMurry) did. It's not as learned a quote, but it certainly is appropriate in this case. Because the officials of the Ministry of the Environment all expressed grave concern: yes, perhaps they should have released the information; but after all they were only acting in what they thought were the best interests of the public. I don't think that they were acting in a partisan political way when they withheld the information; they were acting in a highly arbitrary way, an elitist kind of way, assuming that they had expertise the public couldn't cope with, that they had expertise the public didn't have and therefore they didn't want to trust the public with

that kind of information. That was the view of Ministry of the Environment officials.

There was a fellow named John Kersell, who was writing on delegated legislation in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. He said about freedom of information: "A government official, like a good many other people in this imperfect world, is to be watched most carefully when he is acting with the best intentions."

I did want to use that as an example of freedom of information and how it is at present withheld from the public in Ontario. I wish the government would proceed as quickly as possible with this freedom of information legislation.

Mr. Martel: But not with Carleton Williams.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, that could be a problem.

Mr. Martel: That's a disaster.

Mr. Laughren: One of the other things I wanted to talk about was some problems referred to peripherally in the Throne Speech, as northern problems are always referred to in Throne Speeches from this government. It has to do with the unorganized communities in northern Ontario.

Those of us from this side have spoken long and spoken often about problems in the unorganized communities. Those are communities with no form of municipal organization whatsoever. Historically there has been a lack of services for those communities. I see the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) in his seat and I'm sure he understands the problem.

There are classic examples in my own riding, of communities like Gogama with a polluted water supply and other communities with no recreational facilities, no health care and no fire protection whatsoever. But hope does spring eternal. In those communities the people have been led to believe on a number of occasions that help was on the way.

A couple of years ago we had the northern communities bill, referred to affectionately as Bill 102. Bill 102 became a household word in the unorganized communities across northern Ontario. But when the government held public meetings across the north, it realized the enormity of the problem and withdrew the bill. They simply refused to deal with the problems in the unorganized communities and withdrew the bill entirely; and so much for the hope that there was in that bill.

Mr. Martel: That was in 1974.

Mr. Laughren: Then last year the government announced an isolated communities assistance fund. I believe it was \$500,000 a year—\$250,000 for part of last year and \$500,000 for this year. I can tell members that a communal water supply in Gogama alone would cost \$240,000 or \$250,000; so that certainly wasn't going to go very far. Then the government announced that we were going to have a Ministry of Northern Affairs, and once again the people got their hopes up that perhaps something could happen in the unorganized communities in northern Ontario; but it would appear the problems are not yet solved.

Mr. Mancini: Give the government a chance.

Mr. Laughren: I'll tell you something, Mr. Speaker, I didn't think it was possible for the government to take away anything from the unorganized communities because I wasn't aware that they were giving them anything. But they found a way.

In my darkest moments I could not have conceived a way to take something away from the people in a little town called Sultan—and this is happening in other communities in northern Ontario as well. The people in Sultan for years have had their snow cleared and have had roads maintained by the Ministry of Natural Resources because it's a relatively isolated community. But they've found a way to take that away from them now. They've decided that the Ministry of Transportation and Communications will look after all road maintenance in those communities and they've refused to plough the roads or maintain them unless that community forms a local roads board and there is local assessment against the homes in that community.

Now we suddenly have local assessment for road maintenance. It doesn't seem to matter that they pay the same sales tax, OHIP premiums and gasoline tax as other people who get other services such as sewer and water, fire protection, health care and recreational facilities. That doesn't seem to matter. They've found a way to take something away from the small, unorganized communities in northern Ontario.

I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that took ingenuity. It is really strange that this government, after so many years, still does not understand northern Ontario. They still have trouble coping with small communities in northern Ontario.

A good example is fire protection. The government announced—it wasn't the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) who announced it, he didn't have the courage to announce it; it was announced by the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch), speaking on behalf of the Minister of Northern Affairs and the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth).

Mr. Mancini: Margaret had courage.

Mr. Laughren: The provincial secretary spoke on behalf of the Minister of Northern Affairs and the Solicitor General. She announced there was going to be a programme to help the small communities by smoke detectors. Not fire protection to prevent the fires or to put them out when they occur, but smoke detectors so that when a fire occurs they can all run like hell. Mr. Speaker, that is some kind of programme for northern Ontario. I want to tell you why it is so serious.

Mr. Martel: Read it for Frank Drea, he doesn't believe it.

Mr. Laughren: According to the Solicitor General—

Mr. Drea: I don't believe this.

Mr. Laughren: When we break down the number of fire deaths by district in this province this is what you get—I'll give it on a per 100,000 population so that it is constant throughout the province. The Algoma district, 2.73 deaths per 100,000 people; in southern Ontario 2.38 fire deaths per 100,000 population. In Algoma it is 2.73, in Cochrane it is 8.1, in Kenora it is 25.07, in Manitoulin it is 29.38—for the member for Algoma-Manitoulin—for Nipissing it is 21.86, for Parry Sound it is 32.7—

Mr. Martel: That is you, Maec.

Mr. Laughren: For Sudbury district it is 5.38, for Thunder Bay it is 8.78, for Timiskaming it is 17.33, and for northern Ontario as a whole the fire deaths per 100,000 population are 13.25 compared to 2.38 for southern Ontario.

Surely the answer to the number of fire deaths in the north compared to the south is not to arm the population of northern Ontario with smoke detectors. Surely, if we are going to deal with the problem in a serious way we get into the whole area of fire protection. We get into the area of training people in the small communities, of providing the people with proper fire fighting equipment.

I don't have the technical expertise to talk about the smoke detectors and the environ-

mental impact of those detectors when they are triggered, because I believe there is a form of radiation at that point as well. It is highly questionable that they should be used in the first place, but to think that the government would announce that as a programme for the northern communities that have no fire protection truly reveals a bankruptcy of understanding of the problems of northern Ontario.

Mr. Maeck: What about the grants to isolated communities then?

Mr. Martel: They couldn't buy a sweat pad for a louse.

Mr. Laughren: I can only assume that the government has no more of a commitment today with the Ministry of Northern Affairs than they had before the ministry was created.

Mr. Mancini: Why don't you give the government a chance? That's right, give them another 33 years.

Mr. Laughren: If that is the kind of programme that the Ministry of Northern Affairs is going to come up with, then we are in for some hard times in northern Ontario. People in the north will not be taken in by those kinds of programmes—smoke detectors as a camouflage for fire protection, for firefighting equipment. That truly is not fair to those communities in the north.

Because I know that we are operating under rather severe time restrictions, the last issue I wanted to talk about is one that has become somewhat of a passion with me. It has to do with the Workmen's Compensation Board, with the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson), with the chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board and their failure to recognize laryngeal cancer as a compensable disease. The government has not heard the last of this issue; the government is wrong on this issue; the government will be proved wrong and the government will have to change its mind.

[5:30]

But what bothers me more than anything else? What bothers me more than the delay is the fact that the government has dug itself in on this issue. Not for the right reasons, but because they refuse to be proven wrong again. People like Dr. McCracken at the board, Michael Starr at the board and the Minister of Labour are saying we are not going to be pushed around by the opposition and the unions on this particular issue. I

have a couple of quotes that will add substance to my remarks.

Mr. Nixon: We pushed them right out of the Legislature; they're the only two live ones left.

Mr. Martel: McCracken within a year will be gone.

An hon. member: She should resign.

Mr. Martel: McCracken, he's got to go; along with Starr.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the member for Sudbury East stop heckling his colleague from the Sudbury basin?

Mr. Martel: I'm not, I'm just supporting him; I'm supplementing his points.

Mr. Laughren: I am inclined to agree with the Speaker.

Mr. Martel: It's my friends I have to worry about.

Mr. Laughren: I find that whenever any of us speak on northern Ontario, the average turnout is two Tory members on the opposite side.

Mr. Nixon: And Frank is too embarrassed to leave.

Mr. Laughren: The issue is whether or not, in the province of Ontario, laryngeal cancer should be recognized as a compensable disease. I believe it should be. One of the foremost experts in the world on the relationship between asbestos and cancer believes that it should be. But the Minister of Labour and Dr. McCracken think it should not be, and for those reasons it is not recognized in the province of Ontario.

Mr. Aime Bertrand worked for almost 30 years as a maintenance mechanic at the Inco operation in the Sudbury area. In doing that job of cutting through asbestos lining in furnaces and so forth, he was exposed to literally clouds of dust over many, many years; and not just asbestos, but other agents such as nickel, copper, iron, zinc, leads, selenium, cadmium, cobalt, arsenic, asbestos and sulphur dioxide.

Now, we have medical evidence which indicates that it should be recognized. We are not espousing this cause just on gut instinct. We do have medical evidence, if only the minister would convince the Workmen's Compensation Board that it must be recognized.

I would like to put some of this evidence on the record. No. 1, a letter from Dr. Victor Cecilioni of Hamilton who stated, when he reviewed the problem of Mr. Bertrand: "Since the major ingredient or component of asbestos is silicate, I believe you have sufficient grounds to repeal the WCB's decision."

He was referring to the decision not to recognize it. "In conclusion," he said, "I would say that the Workmen's Compensation Board and the appeals board should review and reconsider the decision in accepting the claim of Mr. Aime Bertrand, especially in the light of our present knowledge about the effects of prolonged exposure to not only one but many carcinogenic agents, both gaseous and particulate, that are present in the work place. Some of these have an additive or synergistic effect when combined with cigarette smoking." That was Dr. Cecilioni again.

Then Dr. Selikoff sent to the Workmen's Compensation Board, and released, his statistics on what happened to asbestos workers when they were exposed to the material over a large number of years—between 1967 and 1975. He found that, along with many other cancers that were caused, cancer of the larynx had a prevalence which was statistically significant, to 95 per cent confidence levels as they say in the world of statistics. There were 4.45 expected deaths and the observed deaths were nine. So there were twice as many observed deaths because of laryngeal cancer as could be expected in the general population. Those are statistics from Dr. Selikoff of New York.

Well, all that information from Dr. Selikoff was the reason the board was stalling on making a decision, they told us. Then, when they get the information, they say it's not good enough. That issue was raised during last December's debates when the Workmen's Compensation Board appeared before the standing resources development committee. That issue was raised by both the leader of this party and myself. Dr. McCracken testified at that hearing and made no mention that there was a study going on. As a matter of fact, when he was asked about this very recently, he said: "The board had launched a \$20,000 epidemiology study in conjunction with the University of Toronto. The decision was made in November to proceed on a study in the Toronto area." That's a quote from the *Globe and Mail*.

If that was true in November, why did Dr. McCracken not mention it during the debates in the month of December? Dr. McCracken's reason was: "The reason I haven't gone around announcing it is because I didn't want

to jeopardize the study in any way." I don't know how announcing that a study is under way to determine the relationship between asbestos workers and laryngeal cancer can jeopardize the study. Perhaps Dr. McCracken could explain that to me.

After this became an issue in the province of Ontario, the Minister of Labour spoke to the Industrial Accident Prevention Association on April 4, about a week ago, here in Toronto. This is what she said:

"I have not and will not use occupational health and safety for political posturing. Some will and do. I suppose that is one of the sad realities of politics at the moment. But it shouldn't be. The reality of occupational health and a safe work place should be non-partisan. It should stand far apart from the adversary relationship between business and labour, employer and employee, the divisiveness of which some in Ontario like to foster."

When I read that kind of statement by the Minister of Labour and try to put it together with some of the comments that she and the chairman of her Workmen's Compensation Board make, it doesn't really fit. In an interview at Thunder Bay a couple of weeks ago—actually Mr. Starr was here in Toronto, and the CBC outlet in Thunder Bay phoned him—he was defending the Workmen's Compensation Board. I'd like to quote what Mr. Starr said.

"Let me say this: I've been on the job since the fall of 1973 and I've had very little complaint from the Northwest Territories or from the Thunder Bay area."

I don't know why he would get complaints from the Northwest Territories.

"As a matter of fact, last November I spent the whole week up in Kenora and the Fort Frances area and I didn't have a single complaint about the function of our staff in Thunder Bay."

The interviewer said: "Mr. Starr, 200 people have signed their names to a union called the Injured Workers' Union in Thunder Bay. There's a problem."

Mr. Starr replied—keep in mind what the Minister of Labour had just finished saying about it being non-partisan and not being political about it—Mr. Starr replied: "Don't forget the injured workers are of the NDP political party."

Mr. Martel: They're in those crowds.

Mr. Laughren: Maybe the Minister of Labour should tell the chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board what she's saying, so that he's saying something in concert. The

way it is now, she is saying we must not be partisan about it and he's saying that a group of injured workers who have been discriminated against by the board are doing so for partisan political reasons because they are affiliated with the New Democratic Party. That's total nonsense, to start with. The Union of Injured Workers—

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: You shouldn't blame them for their poor judgement either.

Mr. Laughren: Because they didn't affiliate with the party?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: No, because they won't.

Mr. Laughren: Oh, I see. The Union of Injured Workers have formed, not just in Thunder Bay but all across Ontario, because of their desperate situation in coping with the Ontario Workmen's Compensation Board. This kind of knee-jerk reaction on the part of the chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board is indefensible, and it is really time that the minister had a talk with Mr. Starr.

My colleague from Port Arthur says the Minister of Labour said the same thing in Thunder Bay last week. I didn't know that, but if that's true, that truly is a sad commentary on where her head is.

Mr. Lupusella: She's playing cheap politics.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, that's exactly right. To go back to the interview in the *Globe and Mail*, Dr. McCracken, in talking about laryngeal cancer, then warned that "the more that is printed about this"—referring to throat cancer victims who had work exposure to asbestos and are being denied compensation—"the more it will jeopardize studies from being undertaken. The worst thing you can do is to keep splashing these cases in the newspapers."

Once again, how dare the doctor from the Compensation Board say that these kinds of cases should not be brought to public attention? They are gross injustices and the media have an obligation even to bring them to the attention of the public and they should not feel at all defensive because of the utterances of the likes of Dr. McCracken.

Mr. Martel: You should fire the hot dog.

Mr. Laughren: Then Dr. McCracken said "that he is prepared to live with the criticism he may receive from politicians and unions, particularly New Democratic Party MPPs and

United Steelworkers of America representatives, who have been pressing the WCB to recognize Mr. Bertrand's claim for about three years."

Mr. Martel: There's a neutral civil servant if I ever saw one.

Mr. Laughren: Surely it's time the Minister of Labour and the chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board realized we do speak for those people who are having problems with the Workmen's Compensation Board. We do speak to a principle that goes beyond one individual such as Aime Bertrand. We speak for the problems of recognizing as compensable a disease for which there are epidemiological studies to indicate it should indeed be compensable. The minister simply refuses to do that. It's simply irresponsible on her part and on the part of the Compensation Board to refuse to do that.

The last thing I wanted to say about this is that when the minister refuses to direct the board to change its policy, she uses as a reason a letter from a Dr. A. B. Miller writing to Dr. McCracken at the Workmen's Compensation Board. This letter leaves me almost speechless, but not quite speechless enough that I can't finish my remarks. I do want to read this letter because there's a paragraph in this letter that simply astounds me.

"Dear Bill:

"Thank you for your letter of March 11. I have carefully considered the table from Dr. Selikoff and have compared this with the previous data that I also obtained from him.

"In practice, the number of deaths from cancer of the larynx observed have not changed with the additional year of observation. The data I had before went up to December 31, 1974. The new data goes up to December 31, 1975. What has, however, happened is an increase in the expected numbers of deaths which, in fact, makes the comparison between observed and expected for the total population, irrespective of duration from onset of exposure or smoking habits, slightly less significant than it was before.

"As Dr. Selikoff indicates, the difference between observed and expected for the total population is statistically significant. We estimate the P value as 0.03 using a one-sided test, but the two component parts of this, i.e., that depend on duration from onset of exposure are neither statistically significant. As you indicate, there is an apparent anomaly in the fact that the ratio of observed to expected is approximately in the same order for those cases with a duration from onset of

exposure less than 20 years compared to those of a duration from onset of 20 years or more.

"But perhaps if larynx cancer is behaving the same way as lung cancer, the appropriate division is, in fact, 15 or maybe even 10 years, so that maybe we should not take too much notice of that. Furthermore, when you look at the smoking-habit information, the major difference between observed and expected is for those individuals whose smoking habits were unknown.

"The difference here is, in fact, statistically significant, though the difference for the larger sample of individuals with more personal years of observation who are known to have smoked cigarettes is, in fact, not significant at all."

And now we come to the interesting paragraph.

[5:45]

"This particular discrepancy is, I feel one of the major difficulties in accepting Dr. Selikoff's data at its face value as an indication of a causal association between cancer of the larynx and asbestos exposure. Even if Dr. Selikoff is right that most of those for whom smoking was unknown are cigarette smokers, that still does not explain the discrepancy, though I agree we are now talking about very small numbers. It does, however, suggest that maybe some other factor accounts for the discrepancy which has nothing to do with asbestos, exposure or cigarette smoking. This could be alcohol or it could be something else, including socio-economic status or race (the comparison group are white workers and maybe there are a number of black workers in the population under observation) and therefore I feel that we should regard this data as an indication that the question needs to be studied further but that the association has not been established as the cause of one. I therefore feel that we are no further on than we were before. The data we now have from Dr. Selikoff if anything, makes us less certain of the relationship than we were with the earlier data and we have no fresh data, apparently, on the horizon other than data which we are planning to collect ourselves."

I'm sorry I read the whole letter, but I did not want to be accused of taking a paragraph out of context.

What bothers me a great deal about that is the comment that perhaps there is something to do with socio-economic status or race in the data provided by Dr. Selikoff. In the data on stomach cancer, cancer of the colon and the rectum or lung cancer, there is no mention of race or socio-economic status as far

as I know. Besides, I don't think there is any validity whatsoever to that kind of invidious comparison. I would suggest that the Minister of Labour—

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: What does Dr. Selikoff say about fluoridation?

Mr. Laughren: He is not in that debate, and I'm happy to say he's not in the debate.

Mr. Cunningham: He says, "Don't drink the water."

Mr. Laughren: He says, "Don't drink the water if there's asbestos in it."

An hon. member: Drink wine.

Mr. Laughren: And that goes for the people in Thunder Bay as well.

What bothers me most about this, aside from that comment about race and socio-economic status, is that there's enough doubt in everyone's mind that if there's even the slightest benefit of doubt given to the worker with laryngeal cancer, then it must simply come down on the side of the worker and it must be recognized as a compensable disease in Ontario. That simply must come about.

What's bothering me, as I said earlier, is that the Workmen's Compensation Board and the Minister of Labour are digging in their heels and saying, "We're not giving in on this one." Well, there goes the whole concept of the benefit of the doubt for injured workers in the province of Ontario. I guess that's partly because I spent time with Aime Bertrand myself and came away really touched by that man as well as, I think, some kind of understanding of the kind of battle he's fighting and the conditions under which he's fighting that battle. I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that if more people can spend time with him, there would be a public furor in this province.

It's not right that the Aime Bertrands and the Gus Frobels of Elliot Lake have to fight the kind of battle they do when there is a Workmen's Compensation Board that has a responsibility, not just to the employers but to the workers in this province as well. That's why we in this party realize that the adversary system of providing compensation to injured workers simply must be abolished.

We understand there must be compensation for injured workers. We understand that the employers in this province must be the ones who fund compensation to injured workers. We believe it can be done along the lines of the New Zealand model, where you take away the adversary system so that the injured worker isn't at the mercy of the likes of

Michael Starr, Dr. McCracken and the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Just before the hon. member for Haldimand-Norfolk commences, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the presence in the Speaker's gallery of the Hon. Francis Tulloch, Minister of Public Utilities and Transportation of Jamaica, and Mrs. Tulloch, and His Excellency Anthony Hill, the High Commissioner for Jamaica in Canada.

Mr. Nixon: I'll bet they have a more interesting Legislature than this.

Mr. G. I. Miller: It's certainly a privilege for me, as the representative for Haldimand-Norfolk, to participate in this Throne Speech debate, Mr. Speaker. It certainly has to be a better day than it was last Thursday, the last day we sat in the House, and had the opportunity of going down to the ball game and almost freezing to death without a beer. But there were a lot of brown bags around and I don't know what they contained.

Mr. B. Newman: Lunches, lunches.

Mr. Ruston: Roy, you could have made lots of arrests that day.

An hon. member: Roy had one of the brown bags.

Mr. G. I. Miller: It's certainly a privilege for me to speak on behalf of the riding of Haldimand-Norfolk. It is perhaps one of the greatest ridings in Ontario. It produces tobacco, apples, milk. We have an industrial park, we have the Nanticoke generating station, which isn't producing too much power at the present time, and we have Texaco which is going to be in production in the near future. We also have two town sites which were purchased not so long ago by the former Treasurer of Ontario, John White. It is a very controversial issue.

But it gives me great pleasure to speak on behalf of my riding and the folks I represent. I would first of all like to delve into the problems as I see them, and some problems that we have to deal with in this sitting of the House. I think the first one is the unity of Canada. That has to be the most important issue. There are also jobs for our youth and our older folks; controlling inflation; and the fact that we have to be competitive in the world markets.

I think perhaps the last factor is the most difficult to get across to the public at large because no one wants to accept the fact that we shouldn't have a little more, but I think

it is clearly indicated by the markets and by our production. Our tobacco industry is running at 45 per cent; our industry is not running at full tilt; our agricultural produce is being imported at the rate of 74 per cent over our exports; and I think that indicates that we are in very troubled times.

But I would like to commend our leader for the stand that he has taken on the leadership of this great province of Ontario and the fact that he ended up the last session of Parliament with a speech on the Quebec issue. I think he realizes the importance of it. He realizes the fact of what it means to Canada and to Ontario. Only time will tell but I think the indications are at the present time that he hit it pretty well on the head, and I think also the polls have reflected that too. It's not a popular decision to make or road to go.

I think the leader of the federal government of today has taken the easy way out. I think the leader of the official opposition has taken the easy way out. I give our leader a tremendous amount of credit for the courage that he showed. He went around this province speaking on behalf of the people of Ontario and, as a representative of the riding of Haldimand-Norfolk, and of Ontario, it means much to me that Canada remain united. I can understand too that—

Mr. Samis: Be a statesman.

Mr. G. I. Miller: —we have to give and take. I don't think it's necessary that we give all the way. But I don't think over the past number of years—and I think that the government has to take this responsibility because they have been the government for—is it 31 years?

Mr. Nixon: Thirty-four.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Thirty-four?

Mr. Mancini: Too long.

Mr. Nixon: Another few weeks.

Mr. G. I. Miller: I think it clearly indicates that they have to accept the responsibility for the deficiencies of our French counterparts in Ontario. As the largest province, representing perhaps the largest French population outside of Quebec, I think compared to the rights that the English have had in Quebec that the French in Ontario have been ill-treated. I think this has to be righted so that maybe they won't have equal rights but at least they'll have more rights than they have now and hopefully we will work

towards equal rights for both Quebec and Ontario.

I think too that when we are discussing the French issue, if French is made available, I don't think we want to forget that the elementary schools in the smaller centres will have the same opportunity as the larger urban areas. I think we all have to be treated fairly and over the years some of the smaller municipalities haven't had access to as good facilities in the education field as the larger metropolitan areas.

I think also when you look at the legislation proposed in the Speech from the Throne that we have had considerable influence. There are many Liberal policies that have been just turned around slightly—

Mr. Foulds: That's why it is so bad.

Mr. G. I. Miller: —to bring them before the people. I would like to think that our Liberal caucus can take much credit for the effectiveness that this minority government has had over the past year. Again, I think we want to be responsible in the future, in the year ahead—

Mr. Foulds: Going to keep propping them up, eh?

Mr. G. I. Miller: Certainly will. It's got to be part of the democratic system.

Mrs. Campbell: You should talk!

Mr. G. I. Miller: I think that our education policies, which we were about to announce last October, when there was a quick turnabout by the Minister of Education, is a very clear indication that they were listening to the Liberals. They were watching and they ultimately made the quick turnaround.

Mr. Riddell: They are bankrupt for policies over there. They rely on the Liberals to make their policies.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Consequently, I think the real people who have gained are the students, the boys and girls of our province. I say again we could take some credit.

It was very interesting yesterday. I had the opportunity of having dinner with a young boy who is graduating from a male nurse class, and he has no future here in Ontario. There just doesn't look to be any jobs at all. He goes to college at the hospital at Woodstock.

The amazing thing is that there's a hospital in Florida that would take the class as a whole; there is a hospital in Kansas City that would take the class as a whole; and there was another which would take the whole class we have spent our money educating and yet we do not have a job here in Ontario for them to go to.

I think, again, the government is responsible. When we were criticizing the education policies we weren't criticizing the teachers, we weren't criticizing the students in particular; we were criticizing the fact that we weren't adjusting our education system to fit into the needs of today. I think this has to be a continual change because we don't know exactly what tomorrow is going to bring. We have to be flexible.

I think another area of real concern is in the environmental field—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps we are close enough to 6 o'clock to recognize the hour before the hon. member launches into a new area.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 1977

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Mr. Speaker: When we rose at 6 o'clock, the hon. member for Haldimand-Norfolk had the floor. He may continue his dissertation.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is certainly a pleasure to see the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) in the Legislature tonight, because I do now want to deal with housing, and the townsites, as it has and will affect my riding of Haldimand-Norfolk. First of all, I see we have some Girl Guides in the balcony, and I would like to welcome them to the Legislature.

When 6 o'clock rolled around, I was about to discuss environmental atmosphere and how it affects my riding also. In the past summer of 1976, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr) came to my area and the deep well disposal site was discussed. They were anticipating using this deep well disposal system in the Canborough area, and the farm organization banded together and was fortunate enough to force the withdrawal of the application.

The fact that we are trying to dispose of our industrial wastes by this method was pointed out during the investigation. It was shown that it was the wrong way to approach it. I think that it will have a considerable effect on how we deal with our industrial waste. It will perhaps be recycled; there will perhaps be other ways found to dispose of it; and I think this is a step in the right direction. Again, we can't afford to jeopardize our fresh water system, such as our Great Lakes and our streams, one of the finest fresh water systems anywhere in the world.

I would also like to point out that between the Nanticoke generating station and the Stelco industrial park in my riding, there is a water intake with a capacity of something like 412 million gallons a day, a source of water supply that perhaps could eventually supply Brantford and Kitchener, as well as the developing region in the immediate area.

I'd like to point out, too, that we are now perhaps in one of the most difficult areas to get a good supply of water. We have plenty of water but it is of sulphur quality. In 1975 I believe there were 5,000 loads trucked by transport out of Port Dover alone, which has to be the most expensive way of putting water into a cistern-type holding tank. I think it is the natural right of everyone in Ontario to have a good source of drinking water.

I think one thing that should be considered when they're expanding the water intake is the supplying of rural areas with plastic pipe that is available now. Smaller municipalities should be able to have that right of having a good water supply.

I would like to point out, too, that Texaco has already hooked into the water line at Nanticoke. They have a 17-inch line which runs two miles from the lake, which brings the water line within four miles of Jarvis and nine miles of Hagersville. I think Stelco's industrial development is already hooked into the line with a 42-inch line. I think it's been brought to the Minister of the Environment's attention that Hagersville and Jarvis do need water, and it is within their reach now with some assistance from the ministry. I think the main trunk lines certainly should be put in by the Ministry of the Environment.

Also, there is a government property utilizing the line. The White Oaks Training School and the Sprucedale Training School are hooked on to the existing line, which has been in since World War I when Jarvis Bomb and Gunnery School was located where the Stelco property is at the present time.

So I think there has to be a priority on supplying good water for this particular area. There is a need there. As I pointed out before, transporting it at \$15 per 1,000 or 1,800 gallons, depending on the size of the truckload, has to be the most expensive way of transporting water in this day and age.

I would like to point out, too, dealing with the Townsend townsite, which has been a very controversial issue, and the South Cayuga townsite—giving a little history on the background how the townsite came about—back before regional government came in,

in 1973, a study group was formed of the former counties of Haldimand and Norfolk, and I think its recommendation at that time was that under the population predictions that were presented to it by various studies, there could be a possibility of a growth of 900,000. I think the study group was well aware that perhaps one townsite was needed and I think the Townsend townsite was the particular site that it chose as being necessary.

However, I think it was also pointed out at the time that the existing municipalities should be allowed to grow until there was enough pressure to warrant the need for a new city site. I think we have 10 municipalities in the region of Haldimand-Norfolk. I think the largest one is Simcoe, with a population of 10,000. There are Port Rowan, Delhi, Waterford—which is in Bob Nixon's riding; and Delhi is also in Bob Nixon's riding, but it's still within the regional boundaries—Port Dover, Hagersville, Caledonia, Jarvis, Dunnville and Cayuga. I think, again, Simcoe is the largest municipality, with 10,000, and they went all the way down to 1,000 population.

Of course, to have a good business section and to have a viable community you need at least 10,000 people, perhaps. I think all these municipalities are capable of going up that high. The region at the present time is committed to \$12 million to expand these water facilities and sewage facilities. I think again in the basic core—the city of Nanticoke and the town of Haldimand—in that basic area there is something like 5,700 lots now available to provide the housing needs. The municipality of Jarvis had a plan for 1967-1968 whereby they could expand to 20,000 people. I think these have been bypassed. We have to take a serious look at the situation and work along with the region, on their recommendation, to decide when the new townsite should be brought on stream.

The area has been basically a farming community. We are geared to deal with farming communities. We have the Norfolk Co-op in Jarvis, Simcoe and Waterford. The Haldimand Co-op is in Hagersville, Cayuga and Dunnville; plus some private enterprises like Masterfeed which are geared to deal with agricultural products in our area. It is very important to the economy of the existing people that the farming community is encouraged and promoted to continue. If there is a need for a city at any particular time in the future I think this should be utilized, but in the meantime the land should

be utilized for agricultural purposes since the economy of the area depends on it so heavily.

Now when it comes to the South Cayuga site, the government may have to admit that it made a mistake. I really don't know what the intentions are for that particular piece of property. There are 12,000 acres. There are many good woodlots on it. Perhaps, with the energy costs going the way they are, these woodlots should be developed and a product taken out and utilized for heating purposes. I think there is now a swing in that direction. Certainly, if we want renewable resources, these woodlots should be worked on now for future generations.

It is certainly a pleasure for me to participate in the Throne debate. There is perhaps one area that I have missed—natural resources. The fishing industry in Lake Erie was a very controversial issue in 1976. Hopefully, they can look forward to a better year in 1977. But bringing down of the limit on fish size to eight inches created real hardship for the fishermen.

Many are well aware that Lake Erie produced 50 per cent of the freshwater fish in Canada—a tremendous resource which has to be worked to the full. I know the fishermen want to protect it. On the other hand, when it was implemented—the regulation had been on the books since 1960—something but it was enforced in 1976. It was a very difficult year for fishermen; the perch fishermen in particular.

There was a harvest of smelt obtained from Lake Erie but, unfortunately, there is only one processor of any magnitude—that is Omsteads Food Limited at Wheatley. Consequently, Port Dover fishermen had to truck their smelt to Wheatley, a distance of something like 170 miles. This seems to put too much dependence on one particular industry.

Omsteads are providing a good service, but when they get into the frozen fruit situation, with frozen food packing in the fall, the smelt fishermen are neglected. With a little prodding, perhaps we were successful. I noticed an article in this week's Simcoe Reformer—dated Thursday, April 7—an article written by Mr. G. G. Bramhill, an old farm reporter, who is, I think, in his 80s. He writes an article every week, and it's very interesting. I would like to quote from his article:

"It looks like Port Dover fishermen may have discovered a bonanza in the demand for smelt from Japan. The Henry H. Misner Company has sent a large shipment of smelt to Japan. The amount was 17 metric tons. A special staff has been trained and new equip-

ment installed to handle this new market outlet.

"According to the Port Dover Maple Leaf, each carton is labelled as Long Point brand and bears the Canadian flag. The shipment travels to Toronto, then via railway to Saint John, New Brunswick. The refrigerated container is then loaded on a freighter with the compass and charts set for Japan. It is expected to reach Japan on April 28. If this experiment works, a long-term contract is expected with Japan, a great boon to Lake Erie fishermen."

[8:15]

So I think perhaps there is a little daylight now with the coming of an alternative market for smelt caught by the smelt fishermen of Port Dover. I certainly hope they have a better summer in 1977, and a better fishing season.

Again, there is one other area as far as the natural resources are concerned and that is the fact that we do have a Grand River which has been fairly well developed at the upper end of the Grand. It is under the direction of the Grand River Conservation Authority. The lower Grand River has potential. I think back in the 1800s they used it as a highway. They had a dam system set up and could travel all the way to Brantford.

I believe that potential still exists. With our technology now it would be a great boon for the area if it was developed as a transportation system and if it encouraged tourists. I think the potential there is great and I certainly hope the minister will look at it in this light. As we need jobs this could be one priority.

Another area which is a real concern to me is lake shore protection. Again, at Port Dover there are cottages on the verge of tipping into the lake from the fact of erosion. Some say it is impossible to cope with it but I think they have found in some specific areas that they can protect the lake shore, especially the built-up areas. Where we are going to lose valuable property is another area where we could have make-work programmes.

As far as energy is concerned, we do have the Nanticoke generating station in my particular riding. It is one of the largest fossil-fired stations in the world, if not the largest. It hasn't been producing that much energy up to this point in time but I will admit that it is a new design. I would hope the company that is putting in the generators and the furnaces will support it because it has certainly cost a tremendous amount of money with very little return up to now.

It was pointed out in 1975 that we had gas being taken out of the ground in southern Ontario which was selling at 40 cents per 1,000. I don't know if anyone can imagine that at this particular date and time and place or not, but that is what they were paying those producers; and they had opposition, they wanted more money because they couldn't continue to search for new fields. With some finds they now have got the price up where it is feasible. I think we have some potential in gas of our own in southern Ontario. Given the opportunity and the financial security this could be developed. In a time of tremendously increasing energy prices, I think it is a must to have some competition.

I would just like to say it has been a pleasure for myself to participate in this debate at this time. As I pointed out in the very beginning, we want to be constructive. As a member of the Liberal caucus it is a pleasure for me to have participated.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Housing.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: First of all, I want to acknowledge the standing ovation I have received from the opposite side.

Mr. Breithaupt: You wouldn't get it from your side; there aren't enough there.

Mr. Nixon: There are just 14 Tories listening.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I realize that you are only recognizing talent.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: If I can get you calmed down enough to listen to the words of wisdom, I will proceed with my remarks.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Minister of Housing has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I would assume that all of the hon. members opposite will have no more problems with their teeth. Obviously, they were talking to their various dentists prior to returning.

Mr. Nixon: It is your buddies who have flushed faces. Only two of them have made it. Wait until the rest of them get here.

Mr. Breithaupt: It's the Tories who are opening their mouths and saying "Ah."

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I'm pleased to have the opportunity to take part in the reply to the Speech from the Throne. I've listened with a great deal of interest to much that has been said by members opposite. Much of it is very interesting.

Mr. Sweeney: You haven't even been here.

Mr. Breithaupt: You have read carefully.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: That which I was not able to hear, in order to avoid some of the acting that might have gone on, I read with a great deal of interest in Hansard, of course.

Mr. Riddell: That's not one of your better stories.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I'd like to begin my remarks with reference to some of the remarks made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) when he spoke here on April 4.

Mr. Sargent: Do you have to read that?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Quite frankly, it was not one of his better days and I think even his colleagues recognize that. I suggest he was having difficulty because, as he has basically admitted, the Speech from the Throne was an excellent speech. It was perhaps the best speech to be given in this Legislature in many days.

Mr. Haggerty: What a flip-flop.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: It was one that outlined a very progressive programme that the opposition parties have found they certainly can and will support.

Mr. Sweeney: That was said on Tuesday, not on Wednesday.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Since the member for Scarborough West likes to think of himself as a great orator many of us gathered here to hear his comments. I think it's true that we found a certain amount of rigidity in many of his remarks, and certainly in his attitude.

Mr. Renwick: Who is rigid?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: He is basically unwilling, I suggest, to see all sides of the question or to face some of the facts that are not to one's liking.

Mr. Nixon: He is not as flexible as you are. You have been on all sides of every question.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: There is no question that his prejudices come through. He is a socialist

politician. Sooner or later they develop a certain rigidity that does not limit itself strictly to their own beliefs about their political opposition.

Mr. Sargent: You didn't write that speech.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: As I look across the floor I see the hon. member for Grey-Bruce. I'm so pleased to see him in the House tonight. I trust someone sent him a notice that I was speaking and he came just to hear. I really appreciate that.

Mr. Breithaupt: No, he actually came in spite of the fact you were speaking.

Mr. Sargent: I hear all your speeches over here.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The Leader of the Opposition has always had a problem. He is basically captivated by his own socialist rhetoric and he makes these speeches in the House criticizing a great deal of what we are trying to do—

Mr. Sargent: I am not.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —and criticizing the programmes even before they've had an opportunity to be put into place. I might remind him that he perhaps might have taken more time to check some of the statistics he used in his speech prior to coming into the House. I admit I was disappointed in some of his remarks, because I can recall the first day I sat in the House he spoke and I thought, well now, here is a man we should listen to with interest. But he really wasn't up to his usual par.

Mr. Haggerty: Do you mean his research is wrong?

Mr. Sweeney: His researchers can't be wrong.

Mr. Godfrey: Which side are you on then?

Mr. Reed: It is the brown envelope.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Of course, the Leader of the Opposition is unlike the leader of the Liberal Party in that at least he's not a newcomer to this province. He has a pretty good idea of what's going on here and one would expect he would have some feeling for reality.

Mr. Nixon: Talk about a speech that doesn't come up to the mark, this is it.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: It's quite apparent that both parties have one thing in common; they have very poor research talent.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think it would be a better evening in the eyes of the beholders who are in the galleries if we had fewer interruptions.

Mr. Nixon: Do you mean we should just sit back and listen to this baloney?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We would ask that the hon. minister be allowed to complete his remarks without so many interjections.

Mrs. Campbell: He hasn't said anything about the Throne Speech.

Mr. Sweeney: Start now; start over again.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That remark is meant for everyone.

Mr. Godfrey: He is being petulant.

Mr. Sargent: That is the best speech we have heard. He hasn't said anything.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I was saying, both the parties opposite have found that their weakness perhaps is in their poor research. Some of the details that have been brought to our attention as supposedly well researched facts have proven to be less than that.

The situation first came out in a big way when the Leader of the Opposition got into the discussion about Confederation, and dropped a few numbers around. That was back on March 6. As I recall, one of the columnists in the Toronto Sun dealt rather cleverly with the inaccuracies in that speech.

Mr. Nixon: It was just before he dealt with beer at the baseball games.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: But more recently, of course, the Leader of the Opposition, in his attempt to—I suppose I could say “mislead,” but that would cause some problems, so I won't say “mislead.”

Mr. Breithaupt: It certainly would.

Mr. Nixon: That's right; withdraw.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I'll just say his inaccuracies in regard to the amount of socially-assisted housing in this province—but I'd like to deal with that a little later.

Mrs. Campbell: Sure.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: But the misuse of facts, deliberately or otherwise, quite frankly is not new. In some of the statements that have been made in this House by the Leader of the Opposition and some of his colleagues,

there are several examples of this that come forth.

Mr. Godfrey: Did you say “deliberately mislead”?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I didn't say “deliberate.” No, I would not say “deliberate.” I would not do that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. minister just continue and ignore the interjections. Thank you.

Mr. Eakins: He's not in the House just now.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: In his reply to the Throne Speech, the Leader of the Opposition talked about freedom of information. That has been one of his topics for the last while back.

In an exchange with the Premier (Mr. Davis) on that day, he said, and I'd like to quote: “I don't know if there is a freedom of information Act in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.” Now surely, since we hear day in and day out all about the so-called great things being done by those socialist governments in those two provinces, it's a little too much to expect that he's not aware that Mr. Schreyer is personally against any such legislation in Manitoba and has fought strenuously against such legislation for eight years.

Mr. Nixon: Premiers always are.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Notwithstanding this, the same Manitoba NDP thought it was a good idea before they formed the government.

And what about good old Tommy Douglas, now the champion of freedom of information? He wasn't very receptive to that idea when he was the Premier of Saskatchewan for all those years.

Mr. Eakins: Joe Clark does that now, John.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I suggest that since the hon. member for Scarborough West seems to know all about those governments' compulsory insurance programmes, mining taxes in the potash industry and so on out in the western provinces, I think it's reasonable for us to expect that he did have some general idea of the position of the party in those provinces as it relates to freedom of information. But then I suppose he would also deny knowledge about Flyer Industries and Saunders Aircraft and so on, all of which have been disastrous government-run enterprises.

Mr. Moffatt: Oh, come on.

Mr. Makarchuk: Tell us about Bricklin; tell us about Bricklin.

An hon. member: Where did you come from?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Still, the same kind of economic theories and policies he and his party would put into effect in this province and put them then on to the backs of the Ontario taxpayers.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We ask that there be fewer interjections and we request that you honour that.

Mr. Sargent: Why does he get special treatment? He needs all the help he can get.

An hon. member: "Before I was so rudely interrupted by the Speaker..."

Mr. Sargent: It's the first time I heard him make a speech.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: All we know, really, from what the Leader of the Opposition said to us in his speech the other day, is that he is against stimulating job opportunities and increasing economic expansion through the assistance of the private sector. He's opposed to that.

Mr. Moffatt: No, he's not.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: We believe that is probably the most meaningful way to guarantee higher economic activity and increased opportunities for jobs for the people of this province.

Mr. Moffatt: That's why the crisis.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: But his alternative, and it's basically a pretty simple one, is for governments to spend more and more money.

An hon. member: Yeah.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: That also means higher and higher taxes, and somewhere along the line the members of his party are going to learn about that.

Mr. Breithaupt: That's what you're doing.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The interesting part of it is that there are certain members in that caucus over there who really know what free enterprise is all about and they know what

effect it can have on the community. Yet they'll stand in this House and make some of the strangest statements about more government intervention into the lives of the general public. Surely we're going to find out—

Mr. Mancini: Like regional government.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Surly we should try to find out that they tried all of that—

Mr. Moffatt: Who wrote this? You don't believe this.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: They tried all this in Great Britain.

Mr. Renwick: This is nonsense.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: They've tried it all in Great Britain.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: You've been here for seven or eight years and you haven't heard a thing we've said.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Warner: You never listen.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Many of these theories that I hear put forth by the hon. members opposite have been tried in Great Britain, and we all know what's happened there. They've just been colossal failures.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Again, in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan—and you've got to live with these things, my friend—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You're going to have to live with them.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would suggest if the hon. members wish to remain in the chamber that they cease the interjections.

Mr. Shore: Clear the House.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: No; order, please. Will the hon. minister be allowed to continue? Would you continue, please?

Mr. Renwick: Why don't you go and build some houses?

Mr. Sargent: The minister is inciting them.

Mr. Moffatt: He pre-dates the Neanderthals.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The NDP has been living in sort of a strange world where its members really believe they can dip into the pockets of the taxpayers of the province for everything—

Mr. Warner: Why don't you run in Oriole?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —that they can enlarge the civil service beyond all means.

Mr. Nixon: You're the one with the \$2-billion deficit.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Take both Manitoba and Saskatchewan—

Mr. Nixon: You're paying \$1 billion a year in interest.

Mr. Breithaupt: Sixty thousand in the civil service and another 18,000 on contract.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[8:30]

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Anyway, I think it's safe to say that I don't believe the people of the province are ready to accept the sort of philosophy that's being put forth by the New Democratic Party in this province. They're not prepared to do it. They may try—

Mr. Swart: Try it.

Mr. Nixon: Right, they are trying for liberalism.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: While we're on the subject of taxes, I don't think we should forget that the Leader of the Opposition has just made some changes in some of his critics, one of which concerned the former critic of the finance portfolio; because quite frankly, that hon. member was doing a lot of talking about increasing taxes and more government spending. I think the Leader of the Opposition got just a little jittery with all that and he decided that perhaps he should really set that off to one side.

Mr. Moffatt: Just like John Smith getting into trouble too.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, the NDP in this House, while being a rather fascinating lot, are really not too different from those who have sat in this House for many, many years. Their public image is a little strange, just a little strange.

Mr. Sargent: They have always stayed NDP anyway.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Look, let me ask them this: In the agricultural portfolio—

Mr. Makarchuk: It's better to be rather strange than senile.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: In agriculture, their spokesman is from Toronto.

Mr. Swart: Where do you fit in?

Mr. Germa: Should be from Middlesex South.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: In northern affairs, the spokesman is from Toronto; and then, as if to deny all the logic, the spokesman for beer at Toronto's Exhibition Stadium is the member for Cornwall (Mr. Samis). I think that's delightful; it's really delightful.

Mr. Moffatt: The member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) is the critic for northern affairs.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: In land preservation, they all stand up in public supporting a no-growth policy, but I think I can show in writing the number of letters that I've received from some of their caucus wanting me to lift minister's zoning orders, to amend minister's zoning orders, to do this and to do that to provide for growth in the same areas that they're telling me they want a firm hand placed upon the developers in these areas.

Mr. Warner: We would like to see more housing.

Mr. Nixon: Surely you don't think minister's orders replace planning?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: No.

Mr. Nixon: That is what you like. You like to control the planning in all those areas.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk and all other areas in the community has made the comment that I'm in favour of minister's orders.

Mr. Nixon: You've got plenty of them.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: After listening to the very sage advice of the hon. member, I took those zoning orders off of his area, as a result of his pleading to hear his case.

Mr. Nixon: They're not off yet.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: They're there to be taken off as a result of what you said.

Mr. Nixon: They are there to be taken off? You're the one who put them on.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: No, I'm not.

Mr. Nixon: The Minister of Housing did. Aren't you the Minister of Housing?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I still find it a little strange that, as the member for Cornwall stands up and makes his public pronouncements on the position that he has taken as it relates to the provision of beer in Exhibition Stadium here in Toronto, what is the position of that party? I haven't heard any of the other members standing up and very loudly expounding that; not very loudly at all.

Mr. Nixon: Tell us about your position? Are you against beer?

Mr. Warner: Not one of them answered the question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think that the hon. members can set a little better example for the young people in the galleries tonight, as well as showing some respect for whoever has the floor. The hon. minister has the floor.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister will continue.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: What I would like to find out next in the course of this sitting is what the real position is of the New Democratic Party on northern development. We had a policy put forth by one of their Toronto members and he said: "No further development until the mess in the south is cleaned up." Yet I sat in the House here today and I listened to one of the members from the Thunder Bay area criticizing the Minister of Natural Resources because, he said, we're importing logs and wood from the United States and we're not cutting enough up in his area. Those two fellows want to sit down and get together on what their policy really is for northern development.

Mr. Moffatt: We are together.

Mr. Warner: It is easy on your side—you don't do anything.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The other interesting point was that the Leader of the Opposition, in his rather lengthy speech in the Throne debate, did not once make reference to that northern development policy expounded by one member in this Legislature.

Mr. Warner: Oh, yes he did.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Warner: Re-read it.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I've often asked myself, as I think most people in northern Ontario have, why is it that they have a southern member from Toronto, who probably hasn't been much farther north than Highway 401 and Steeles, setting out the policy for northern development? I really believe that we want to know why it is that this sort of policy is being put forth, and yet no position has been firmly taken by the party to support that position which he has expounded.

Mr. Sargent: How many members have you got?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I haven't heard the northern members standing up and saying that this is the policy they support. I would invite them to do so. They have made a mistake and they are going to have to live with it.

Mr. Moffatt: No, we didn't.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Someone mentioned the other day that what I should do, or someone should do, is send out one of these questionnaires that they are all so familiar with and they are all so in love with filling out; we should send them all one and ask them to fill it out as to just exactly what their positions are on these various things.

Mr. Nixon: The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr) sent one out asking if his people wanted to have cans or bottles.

Mr. Breithaupt: After he had done it.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: This government believes in making sure that the people who understand the various regions and interests are appointed to look after the needs of the people in the respective areas. That's why you will find a northerner in charge of northern affairs, Mr. Speaker—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —and you will find a rural person responsible for agricultural policy.

Interjection.

Mr. Nixon: I notice you didn't say a farmer, just a rural person.

Mr. Hodgson: He was a farmer too.

Mr. Angus: Talk to George about pollution in the north.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: All that comes down right now is that the government is prepared to supply good government.

Mr. Nixon: The member for York North (Mr. Hodgson) is the only bona fide farmer you have got.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I want to talk a little bit about—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —some of the figures that were used in this Legislature as they relate to the development of housing in the province of Ontario.

Mr. Deans: Some of them.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Now we all know that you fellows can throw statistics around pretty good and you can throw out numbers too.

An hon. member: What housing?

Mr. Moffatt: List the housing.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: In both his statements and Speech from the Throne remarks, and as well in a prepared statement he released, the Leader of the Opposition went on to quote certain numbers and figures as to assisted housing starts in the province of Ontario. Well, even his own candidates refused to believe the figures, so they have used different figures in the course of discussing the question of development of assisted housing in Ontario.

Mr. Moffatt: Spend more time building houses than reading press releases.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: He will be familiar with the words of his own candidate who stood

at a meeting not too long ago and quoted a number of figures which were certainly far different—and much more accurate, I might add—than those put forth by the Leader of the Opposition here in this House.

The Leader of the Opposition said that in 1974 the Ministry of Housing created 497 assisted housing units in the province, 474 in 1975 and 202 in 1976. That—and he knows it—is absolutely incorrect.

In 1974 the ministry started 4,192 assisted housing units—

Mr. Warner: Baloney.

Mr. Moffatt: Whose press release is that?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —which is surely a far cry from the 497 that he credited us with. Let's look at the real figures for 1975 and 1976.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The member for Scarborough West states, absolutely incorrectly, 474 and 202 respectively. The simple fact of the matter is that in 1975 the Ministry of Housing was involved in 8,461 units—

Some hon. members: "Involved in."

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —of assisted housing; and in 1976, 10,130 units.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Now, let me repeat—let me put it to you this way. I am fully aware of your policy in that caucus, that housing in Ontario should be built by the government. That's your position. You don't believe that the private sector should build it.

Mr. Renwick: We want to build houses.

An hon. member: Rather than do nothing.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You don't believe that there should be integrated communities. You don't believe that we should have a variety of housing in areas. What you want and your critic—your former critic was the one who talked this way continually—is large blocks of low rental housing—

Mr. Moffatt: That sounds sensible.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —no real social interchange between people. That's what you want. You want it to be built by the government. You don't recognize that the pri-

vate sector can build assisted housing; and through our rent-supplement programmes, through co-operative housing, through community-integrated housing, we are supplying units here in this province for people to live in assisted rental housing, but you people insist that it has to be done by—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I wish the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie the Minister of Housing, would speak to me.

Mr. Angus: He won't believe you either.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I would be more than pleased and delighted to speak to you, because I suggest that among your colleagues you are the only one who really has an ability to understand and listen, so I would be glad to speak to you, sir.

So, Mr. Speaker, as we ignore the other members opposite and we speak to you, I point out to you again that the figures used by the Leader of the Opposition as they relate to assisted housing in this province are totally wrong and they are not accurate at all.

Mr. Nixon: Who wrote that stuff, John?

Mr. Moffatt: Author.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: We had over 3,964 assisted housing units in 1975.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: We signed agreements for—

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the member for Brantford (Mr. Makarchuk) try to restrain himself? He will have an opportunity later on in this debate.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, these units were under rent-geared-to-income accommodation, under the rent-supplement programme; and, as I said, the community-integrated programme and the limited-dividend and accelerated-rental programmes. Now if you see something wrong with those programmes, would you tell us? If they are providing units at lower rents for people to live in, what is wrong with them? Just because it isn't being done the way you would like to see it done—

Mr. Moffatt: They are too slow.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, right now we have over 76,000 units in this province in the portfolio of the ministry. Allowing for normal rental turnover that will make available more than 7,000 units a year which can be re-rented.

The Leader of the Opposition's statistics also ignore the fact that there are 4,625 senior citizen and family units now under construction—

Mr. Angus: How many on the waiting list?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —over the years the ministry has produced more than 12,200 units of housing for students, brought to market more than 25,100 fully-serviced lots and provided millions of dollars of mortgage financing to nearly 22,000 other units.

Mr. Sargent: It is all federal money that you are talking about.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: So you're telling us that we're not doing anything in housing?

Mr. Angus: How big is the waiting list?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Fort William is becoming repetitive.

Mr. Angus: He is not answering the question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: This is not the question period.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, is also trying to suggest that the province is getting out of programmes to build houses. This again, of course, is completely untrue; it is incorrect. As anyone who is familiar with our new programmes will recognize, we'll be working even more closely with the municipalities in the future to meet their needs for assisted housing. All I ask of you is that if you want to be critical, which of course is your responsibility, please do so with some degree of accuracy, because up till now you've been missing the target by plenty; just get down to getting your research underway.

Mr. Makarchuk: Where is the housing?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The housing is all over this province, and the hon. member knows it full well. That same hon. member, the member for Brantford, has in his own community the proof of the number of units that have been started in assisted housing; and he knows full well that that's true.

He knows full well that when his community has asked for assisted housing those

programmes have been delivered. He can't stand in this House and say anything else and at the same time be honest to himself and the rest of his colleagues here.

Mr. Makarchuk: It was only because I did it myself, not because of you.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I might read into the record the comments that were in the Realty Communication Newsletter of April 1977, and I quote as follows: "The best news for home builders these days is the increasing traffic around new subdivisions and a market increase in sales during the first quarter of this year as against last year."

That was Murray Webber, the president of the Toronto Homebuilders Association, who called the increase "dramatic." He also indicated that one of the reasons for this was the piggy-back arrangement between the federal and Ontario governments that we've put together, putting AHOP and Home Developments together. I know you're going to say that comes from the Toronto Homebuilders' Association, and it does; but after all they are the people who are doing the building.

But while we we're being critical of the programmes of providing housing in the province of Ontario let me read something else to you. It says here: "While Ontario built 77,601 units of public housing between 1964 and 1975 under the programme, Quebec built only 20,265. Ontario built 46,633 units of senior citizens' housing under the programme, while Quebec built only 8,352."

Mr. Sargent: How many apartments have you built?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: It doesn't say anything? Do you know who was saying it?

Mr. Moffatt: Where did it start?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Do you know who was saying it? I'll tell you who was saying it, and maybe you're right, maybe it doesn't say anything. It was said by Ed Broadbent, MP, leader of the New Democratic Party, in a discussion with Levesque in Quebec. Maybe you're right, perhaps it doesn't say anything—

Mr. Moffatt: Where did you start?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —come to think of it.

Mr. Moffatt: It is about time you thought of it.

Mr. Riddell: Who is Ed Broadbent?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, in my own riding of Sault Ste. Marie a \$34,000 semi-detached unit, with estimated municipal taxes of \$45-a-month, would generally require an annual income of \$13,200 to make the monthly mortgage and tax payments; with the AHOP interest-reduction loan the minimum requirement is reduced to \$10,880; and with maximum assistance, the loan and a \$750 subsidy, the income is \$8,380.

Mr. Makarchuk: Those are federal programmes you are talking about.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: If we go to a maximum programme involving the Ontario government in the programme that we've put together—

Mr. Makarchuk: You didn't put anything together, you took advantage—

Mr. Ruston: The feds put up the where-withal; you turned the key.

Mr. Nixon: The hon. John Rhodes comes to town.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: As long as they put it up, we'll run the programme. We add on to that our \$750 grant, and a person with an income of just about \$6,000 a year can afford to buy the home.

[8:45]

I don't think that sounds like we're getting out of housing in Ontario. I recognize and I give full credit to the programmes that we have been able to work together on with the federal government. I'm not for one minute attempting to suggest that the federal government has not played its role in housing.

Mr. Haggerty: That's a switch.

Mr. Nixon: They don't need you at all at this stage.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I have always said that. But I will say this as well: The federal government has been willing to work with us in the development of their programmes and ours so that we can make maximum use of the dollars, with a limited amount of administration—

Mrs. Campbell: They have always co-operated.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —which is something the hon. members on that side don't know anything about; they're all busy trying to enlarge the bureaucracy to run government

programmes sponsored only by them. But I have no hesitation in recommending that.

Mr. Nixon: What does your superminister say about that?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The Throne Speech also indicates that we have an intention to increase the amount of rental housing for senior citizen families with low income. We will do that. Again, that obviously does not make any kind of possible suggestion that we are getting out of the housing field. If the Leader of the Opposition continues to use his faulty figures, then I can only conclude one of two things: He's either deliberately trying to avoid giving the exact figures or his research needs an awful lot of work to be done on it.

Mr. Moffatt: You know better than that.

Mr. Warner: You might try—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the members for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner) and Durham East (Mr. Moffatt) keep quiet?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I have mentioned the public position that the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues like to take on land policy. But what of the private requests that more often than not greatly conflict with what they say in public? There's a lack of consistency there.

I want to talk specifically about the area regarding land preservation policy; and this has to do, of course, with the antics of the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart). He has been very vocal about the government's green paper on food land policy and Niagara regional boundaries. But when all is said and done, when one gets through all the press releases he has let out, I can only conclude that he is a member of the Legislature who really thinks the solution to this problem is to put it in the hands of the Ontario Municipal Board and let that become a political forum.

I don't think that's what the board is for, but he apparently sees that as a way of making some sort of political hay out of a very complex problem in that region. In suggesting that the OMB should decide the boundaries for the development of that area on agricultural land in the region, if that's what he recommends, I might add that would diminish considerably the local autonomy. But then he has always said in this House and during consideration of my estimates, as I recall, he really felt the provincial govern-

ment should come down hard on municipalities and make the decisions for them.

Maybe we can crystallize the member's thinking of this. I'll quote from a story in the Niagara Falls Review of March 11, 1977:

"I am sick and tired of hearing Swart on the subject he, an urban dweller, knows nothing about,' Councillor Russell High of Lincoln said. 'I am sure he has never been closer to the land in Lincoln than looking at an aerial map. He's never walked over an inch of it. When agricultural land is mentioned, he immediately starts to talk and he doesn't know what he is talking about.'"

Mr. Nixon: The member for Lincoln (Mr. Hall) is the man who knows all about those lands.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I suggest that that should suffice; it parallels my own feelings as far as his knowledge of that particular problem is concerned.

Mr. Riddell: The member for Welland-Thorold will have lots of time to walk over the land after the next election.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I suggest that one should at least make some mention regarding the contribution that has been made to this debate by the Leader of the Opposition; and that is to say that, in fact, the Speech from the Throne was a good speech and one in which he found a great deal that he could support. But, of course, in a dying effort he had to come up with some sort of an amendment, knowing full well that amendment would never carry in this House.

I suggest that the Speech from the Throne deserves the support of the entire House—

Mr. Warner: You have got to be kidding. You are not really serious.

Mr. Cassidy: No wonder you backed away from half of it.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —and then the members of the opposition take a notion to look at what that amendment really is, they too will stand in support of the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Burr: Inasmuch as the previous speaker's political identification was called into question, Mr. Speaker, and at the time there were more former Liberals present on the Tory benches than there were genuine Tories, perhaps I should identify myself. I am a member of the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Maeck: Glad you told us.

Mr. Burr: But I must confess I have not always been a member of the New Democratic Party. For 22 years before I became a New Democrat I was a member of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation; that is, a dues-paying member.

Mr. Mancini: That's when he ran in Essex North.

Mr. Nixon: That's when he had a real party to support.

An hon. member: He's just a born loser.

Mr. Burr: I should like to congratulate the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Gaunt) for speaking so well on the subject of nuclear and solar energy, thereby saving me the trouble of doing so. I should also like to thank the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) for speaking on PCBs, which subject I was going to cover.

Mr. Nixon: Well, that's that.

Mr. Burr: Oh, I have had a request from the member for Brantford-Norfolk-Oxford and Woodstock—no, not Woodstock—

An hon. member: He would if he could.

Mr. Burr: —to throw in a reference to—is it beer?

Mr. Nixon: Any of those drinks. You know about them all.

Mr. Burr: Any of those drinks. I'll try to work that in just to please this member, who's a very nice fellow.

I should like to make some comments first of all on the subject of unemployment, a disease that bedevils most non-totalitarian countries. There are some differences between the depression of the 1930s and the present-day depression. For the benefit of those members who didn't experience the last depression, I should like to give a very brief description.

In the 1930s there were no old-age pensions of any significance and they were not paid until the age of 70. There was no unemployment insurance, and there was very little help available in the form of welfare. Thousands of people lost their homes simply because they couldn't pay their property taxes. The unemployed—at least those who travelled from town to town looking for work—were subject to frequent arrests and frequent warnings to get out of town to avoid arrest. These were the major obvious differences.

There were some similarities. In the United States there were nine million persons unemployed and in Canada almost a million, as I recall. Today's statistics are not unlike those of the 1930s. The prospects for high school and university graduates were no better then than they are today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Excuse me for a moment. Will the hon. members keep their voices down? I can hear three different conversations while I'm trying to listen to the hon. member for Windsor-Riverside.

Mr. Burr: Married women had virtually no chance of being hired as teachers, and single women teachers who married had little chance of remaining on staff.

I mention this simply because last week I received from a former constituent the first angry letter that I have received on the subject of unemployment. The theme of the letter was that married women whose husbands hold good jobs should not be employed until the present depression ends. Actually I'm surprised that I have not received such a letter before now, and I shall be even more surprised if I don't receive many more in the weeks ahead.

Adolf Hitler destroyed and shortened the lives of millions of people. On the other hand, ironically, millions of North Americans were saved from lives of poverty, deprivation, misery and indignity because of Hitler. The war that he started gave meaning and dignity, and even brought happiness to millions of North America's unemployed.

How will the present depression end? The depression of the 1930s lasted almost a decade and had not World War II put everyone to work, there is no certainty that it would not still be continuing today. Roosevelt's public works programme merely alleviated the problem in the United States; it did not by any means solve it.

Inasmuch as totalitarian methods are anathema to most Canadians, we can safely ignore them as a solution.

We have seen what a national anti-inflation programme has caused: the widespread staff cutting and increased unemployment. I want to propose, and this is simply my own proposal, that we change our approach and start a full employment programme. To make it palatable to government we will even use the acronym FEP.

Let us assume that for every 100 persons now working full-time in Canada there are seven who can find no work at all. Let us assume, also, that inflation is continuing at

an annual rate of seven per cent. Let us assume, also, that for most jobs and for most people the only justification for an annual increase in pay is the increase in the cost of living.

Based on those assumptions, in order to make our thinking specific let us consider a hospital that has 100 employees—nurses, clerical, housekeeping, maintenance staff and so on. The total wage and salary budget for this hospital would be increased seven per cent this year to take care of inflation. But because of FEP, our full employment plan, the 100 employees would get no increase in pay, partly because their work hours would be reduced by approximately seven per cent and partly because there would be seven additional persons hired to maintain the quality of service the public needs.

How would this affect the public? How would it affect the employer, the 100 employees, the seven previously unemployed and the state? Since the number of work hours would be the same, the quality of service offered to the public should remain the same. The employer—in this case the hospital board—would be increasing its budget no more than the anticipated inflationary seven per cent. The 100 employees would receive no increase in total pay, but would be receiving an hourly rate increase of about seven per cent because their hours of work were being decreased about seven per cent. The seven jobless persons would of course be the main beneficiaries of FEP, for reasons that surely need not be elaborated; the restoration of dignity, restoration of income, and possibly salvation of a family life are among the most obvious benefits.

Imagine the FEP, the full employment programme, applied to 10 million jobs or positions in Canada and you can see that 700,000 unemployed persons could be restored to full citizenship. If the FEP were put into operation in every possible category of employment, governments would receive much more revenue from income tax, unemployment insurance payments would become minimal, welfare payments would be confined to the unemployable.

Consequently, there could be tax reductions at all three levels of government, sufficient perhaps to make up for the lack of a seven per cent cost-of-living wage increase that all employees would forgo in the first year of the FEP. It is possible that the tax reductions will offset the cost-of-living increase in its entirety.

The success of FEP would depend upon the compassion of governments—in particular the federal government—to initiate the programme in the first place, and the goodwill of all those now employed to make sure that it was implemented in the second place.

From answers to questionnaires that I have circulated in the riding of Windsor-Riverside, which I have the honour to represent, I know there would be great support and enthusiasm for a full employment plan. I commend it to the Premier (Mr. Davis) for his serious consideration, endorsement and presentation to the federal government.

[9:00]

For the Minister of Transportation and Communication (Mr. Snow), the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and any other cabinet minister who is interested in the subject, I have a report from my constituents on the legal driving age they prefer in Ontario. The age of 16 is satisfactory to, or favoured by, 24.5 per cent; the age of 17 by 10 per cent, and the age of 18 as the legal driving age by 64 per cent. Only one per cent had no opinion on this subject.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I can hear the Minister of Transportation and Communications better than I can hear the person who has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Fred, speak up. Speak up, Fred. Turn on his microphone.

Hon. Mr. Snow: You only hear the important things, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Burr: I wonder if the minister heard my remarks or should I repeat them, Mr. Speaker?

An hon. member: Repeat them. Repeat them.

Mr. Nixon: He is not interested in full employment.

Mr. Burr: I'll send them to him by mail—by courier. The comments on the legal driving age included references to the obvious drinking and driving dangers, as well as to the energy conservation aspect. The emotional immaturity of the average 16-year-old, compared with that of the average 18-year-old, was mentioned in some comments, especially in the case of a fatal accident. A youngster of 16 may be traumatically scarred for life, whereas two years later he might handle such a situation more successfully. I would like to tell the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk—inasmuch as he is very interested in this subject—and in particular give to

you, Mr. Speaker, the results of the survey in my riding concerning the best legal age for the drinking of alcohol. I gave my constituents five choices; 18, 19, 20, 21, and over 21. The percentage of constituents favouring each was as follows; age of 18, 15.5 per cent; 19, 4.5 per cent; the age of 20, 18 per cent; the age of 21, 52 per cent; a higher age, nine per cent. One per cent offered no opinion.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Drinking or driving?

Mr. Burr: This was the drinking age. In other words, raising the age to only 19 does not satisfy 79 per cent of the constituents who answered the questions. At least 61 per cent favoured restoring the drinking age to 21.

I wish to register my dissatisfaction with some of the operations of the Workmen's Compensation Board. We must have a better system of compensating injured persons, whether they are injured workmen or any other kind of injured citizen. The physical effects of an injury are the same whether it happens at work, at home or anywhere else. But the financial effects can be extremely different.

If an injury occurs at work, the injured workman or workperson has a fairly good chance of being compensated, especially if he has several witnesses and, preferably, a moving-picture-camera operator covering the accident. In those cases, he is fairly well off. But if he has the accident at home, he is financially out of luck, unless he is fortunate enough to be covered by a sickness and accident insurance policy of some kind. A better system must evolve, wherein there is no necessity to prove the injury is related to the work place. It is on this reef that the fates of thousands of injured workmen have foundered.

I have one current case history that I should like to share with the House, never having done so before. As I relate it, I ask members to keep in mind the number of persons whose time and talents are taken up with handling this one particular case, persons whose involvement would not be required at all if we had an all-embracing universal accident insurance plan.

At the end of October 1976 a constituent came to me for help. Normally his union would have looked after his case, but he was aware that his president was spending about 35 per cent of his time on Workmen's Compensation Board problems and hoped I could speed up the resolution of his problem.

Mr. Ferrier: You can say all you want now, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk is in the chair.

Mr. Burr: On November 1, I wrote to the chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board telling him the following story.

Mr. Davidson: Are you sure that's King Robbie?

Mr. Burr: In the letter I mentioned names, but here in the House I shall not do so. I shall call my constituent "Ray," although that is not his name.

"Dear Mr. Starr:

"At [a certain plant] on October 26, 1975, while Ray was pushing a 300-pound stock truck, the latter's wheels caught in a crack in the floor causing Ray a piercing pain in his right shoulder. When this pain gradually extended to his neck, his family physician sent him to a doctor to be x-rayed. As a result of the x-ray findings he was sent to a physiotherapist. The diagnosis accompanying him was cervical and right shoulder suspensory pain.

"Between November 21, 1975, and May 13, 1976, Ray went on 97 separate days for therapy sessions, with good results for the shoulder. On May 17, he was called to the Downsview rehabilitation centre. The therapy there was strictly for the neck. On June 8, no further progress seemed likely and he was told that he was discharged. The rehabilitation officer said, 'You can go back to work tomorrow, Ray.'

"When Ray told him that the doctor had said only for light work, the rehabilitation officer called the doctor and confirmed this. He then called the industrial relations manager at Ray's plant, who informed him that with over 200 of the 300 employees on lay-off there was no light duty work available, despite Ray's 27 years of seniority.

"The rehabilitation officer then said to Ray, 'I have bad news for you, Ray. You will be on WCB payments for some time yet. Your company has no light work.' Ray returned to Windsor in June and his Workmen's Compensation cheques continued until September 15, 1976, when suddenly he was cut off.

"Six weeks later a letter, dated October 25, arrived stating that 'a routine review [of his claim] had revealed that the Workmen's Compensation Board has evidently been paying benefits since June 8, 1976, for a non-work-related upper back injury. The letter ended by saying that he would be notified shortly of the exact amount of this overpayment.

"Since being cut off in mid-September Ray has exhausted his savings and has now \$56 left in the bank. He has no wish to go on welfare. The suggestion that he has been overpaid and should return a couple of thousand dollars simply floors him. He's had to borrow from his credit union in order to have enough money to make his November mortgage payment.

"From what he can gather, the Workmen's Compensation Board is suggesting that his present cervical pains stem from a 1950 auto accident in which some ligaments torn in his right shoulder were repaired by transfer of ligaments from his right leg. In this accident, there was no injury whatsoever to his neck. In fact, he served in the army from May 1951 to January 1954 with the 48th Toronto Highlanders. He was A1 when he enlisted and he was A1 when he was discharged. As a leading infantryman, he carried heavy packs without any difficulty or discomfort throughout 32 months of service, most of that time in Germany.

"The doctor's letter of February 20 refers quite clearly to the C5, C6 and C7 trouble as the cause of his taking the physiotherapy treatment. His family's physician is so annoyed by WCB's actions that he simply throws its registered letters into his wastepaper basket. The physiotherapist's instructions were clear. He was to treat Ray for 'cervical and right shoulder suspensory sprain.' At Downsview, the treatment by the therapists was for the neck only, the shoulder trouble having virtually ended.

"Why suddenly does a 'routine review of the claim' turn a blind eye to the neck and assume that the compensable injury was restricted to the shoulder? I should appreciate your earliest possible consideration of this case, as Ray's personal savings have been exhausted."

Mr. Starr replied promptly on November 3 and set the wheels in motion, but it took until December 8, a good five weeks later and a very long time for a man harassed financially as well as physically, for Ray to receive word that he would not have to pay back the \$2,000. However, the letter said the board's medical advisers "said that the neck injury was a degenerative disc disease and that, although it could be aggravated by accident, it could not be aggravated by this type of accident."

Mr. B. Newman: The old story.

Mr. Burr: You've heard that one?

Mr. B. Newman: Yes.

Mr. Burr: Of course, we appealed this decision and eventually on February 17 of this year had a hearing in Windsor — a sympathetic hearing, I might add. Nevertheless, it took until March 11, almost four weeks, before Ray received a letter saying he must go to London to be examined by still another doctor on May 11 — one long interval after another. After his examination on May 11, how much longer will he have to wait to hear the results of his February 17 appeal? Even the mailing of a letter takes the board such a long time.

Take these dates, for example: On March 2, Dr. Hopper of the WCB wrote the letter notifying Ray of his medical appointment in London. On March 3, a transportation warrant was issued, but it took until March 8 for the envelope to get postmarked and it took until March 11 for Ray to receive it in Windsor.

Since mid-September of 1976, Ray has received no compensation payments, although his local doctors have been visited by investigators, although he has had a myelogram, although he continues to wear the cervical collar provided by WCB, although he endures continuous pain, and although he has had a hearing on February 17. Still he has no prospect of hearing a decision before some time after this examination on May 11.

Mr. B. Newman: Shame.

Mr. Burr: It is this kind of delay that turns injured workmen into depressed, discouraged individuals and perhaps eventually into unemployables with functional overlays. When one adds to these delays the fact that Ray's company is having economic troubles and may fold, leaving him at the age of 46 or so in the unenviable position of having to seek a new job with his recent WCB record, one can realize what his frustration and discouragement have been during these last several months.

[9:15]

We need a universal accident insurance scheme in which it is necessary only to prove that an injury has been suffered without any concern as to where, how or why. Ontario needs a better plan and hundreds of injured workmen need it now. In fact, if we had a universal sickness and accident insurance plan, the kind of speech given by the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) concerning Aime Bertrand and the quibbling over the cause of his illness would be quite unnecessary. If a person is dying or disabled by cancer, society should have an insurance scheme to take care of his financial worries.

Despite the welcome change in rules restoring the question period to an hour, there are still often occasions on which it takes the member a long time to ask a question of the minister.

Mr. Samis: Especially the member for Oriole (Mr. Williams).

Mr. Burr: There is no certainty that he or she can be present during estimates during the particular vote under which certain concerns may be raised. For this reason I am raising the following environmental matter publicly and will follow it up personally with the minister—although he is here now, almost the only minister who is, and he may be able to take note of it.

The Environmental Protection Agency in the United States has found that the practice of salting streets and highways during winter is not an unmixed blessing. In addition to the \$200 million spent on the cost of salt itself and the cost of applying it to road surfaces in the American snow-belt states, there are environmental costs which are probably equal in dollar terms, although putting a precise dollar-and-cent value on damage to the environment is not possible.

Damage to highway surfaces, and especially to bridges, has been estimated at \$500 million annually in the United States. Salt damage to vehicles has been estimated at 10 times the cost of the whole salting operation, namely, \$2 billion. Even more serious than these property damages, however, is the damage to water supplies. In Massachusetts alone, 90 communities had sodium content greater than that allowed to persons on low-salt diets. Increased levels of sodium in water supplies increase the risk of hypertension, according to health authorities. In fact, the EPA reports that in some communities salt levels in drinking water now "exceed public health service safety standards set by leading researchers, heart specialists and the American Heart Association." It is probably anti-climactic to add that damage to vegetation is estimated at \$50 million annually.

My questions to the Minister of the Environment and to the Minister of Health are these:

1. What studies are being made of the environmental and health costs of the practice of salting roads in Ontario?

2. Is the situation any less serious in Ontario where use of salt is even higher than in the United States?

3. What measures are they planning to safeguard against further damage and risk, both to Ontario's environment and to the health of Ontario citizens?

I have a brief comment to the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell): Dr. H. A. Heggveit, professor of pathology at the University of Ottawa, has shown magnesium deficiency in the diet of rats rapidly damages heart muscle. He has found that human victims of fatal heart attacks have significantly less magnesium in heart muscle than is the case in individuals dying of other causes.

Dr. T. W. Anderson of the University of Toronto's department of preventive medicine has found the protective factor in hard water, as far as the incidence of fatal heart attacks is concerned, is magnesium. He also points out that modern processes used in refining food reduce the level of magnesium left in our food. Depletion of magnesium in certain intensively-mined crop land has been observed in areas in which fatal heart attacks, certain types of cancer and leukemia and other diseases are increasing. Consequently, supplementary amounts of magnesium are recommended by some physicians for those diets may be deficient in magnesium.

It seems to me that disseminating information of this kind is a proper function of the Ministry of Health. At present, most of the ministry's activities are such that the title of Ministry of Ill Health would be more understandable, if not more appropriate.

I now refer to one other topic. I should like to appeal to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Parrott) to modify, if he will not rescind, his policy on a fee increase for foreign students. Iona College's board of directors has recently approved a resolution to this effect. After pointing out that Canada has profited greatly by having generations of its students enjoying the benefits of education in various foreign countries, the directors point out we have an obligation to reciprocate. The directors suggest the very least the provincial government may do is to offer offsetting scholarships or bursaries to "students of proven need from the less-developed countries." I commend this resolution to the Minister of Colleges and Universities for his serious consideration.

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to participate in the Throne Speech debate here tonight and congratulate the government in the odd place, criticize it in a few areas and make a few recommendations.

It was encouraging to see in the Throne Speech a new nine per cent loan being made available to small business. I have been asking for something like this since I came in here. It came out in the paper, saying it was

eight and a quarter; I had been saying we should have one at eight per cent. I thought it was getting close to what I wanted but when calling the ministry the next morning, I was told it was nine per cent and not eight.

I asked for the definition of "small business" and they said any employer with under 100 employees. I said: "Well, then, that's fine. The farmer will come under that category." The fellow on the other end of the line immediately started to laugh and assured me that this loan wasn't going to be made available to farmers. I cannot see how farmers can be discriminated against in this way. It seems obvious to me that farmers need this nine per cent loan; they come under the category of small business.

There's an Industry and Tourism office in Owen Sound and the ODC loans are not administered through this office. I think they should be; in the case of the small business loan they, especially, should be administered through the local offices to cut down the government and civil service red tape to a minimum. They should have the power to authorize these loans from local offices. They would be able to be administered within, say, a two- or three-week period whereas now it can take two or three months to get a loan approved.

What is the Ontario government doing for agriculture anyway? How can the young farmer, especially, get established in farming today? The only way I see it, unless he is born into a family that can set him up, he is going to have to start part-time, as a lot of the rest of us did. And in order to start part-time he has to have made available to him some small loan, such as this loan here that's going to be made available. He may need \$10,000 to \$15,000 to \$20,000. If he's going to start full-time he's going to need a loan for \$150,000, which he can get through the Farm Credit Corporation. But the Farm Credit Corporation will not look at a person who wants a \$10,000 loan.

A fellow came to me just last weekend, and I've had a lot of them come to me in this category wanting to obtain a loan from \$5,000 to \$25,000 to start into farming part-time so that he can build up to be a full-time farmer at a future date. This doesn't only just enable them to get into farming, but starting in a smaller way also takes a lot of the risk out of it for them.

I would like to see the government reconsider this small business loan and try to make it available to the farmers as well. Do they really want to keep the family farm or not? If they do, they're going to have to do

something more than what they have suggested—that is paying their taxes for them in the new assessment deal that is coming through. I haven't talked to one farmer yet who wants his taxes paid for him. He wants to be able to pay his taxes the same as everybody else and he wants to run a viable business like everybody else, and he's not looking for any charity.

We seem to be in a worse mess now than ever in starting the market value assessment and the commission on assessment. If we are not going to scrap the whole deal and keep putting it off, we're going to have to do something to help counties such as Grey which are half on market value and half on the old assessment. It's very unfair. The residential people are paying a lot more taxes than they were before the switch, because the whole programme hasn't been worked out yet. It's just questionable whether it ever is going to be worked out to anybody's satisfaction.

Right now in Grey county industrial taxes have been cut away down and the residential taxes have been raised considerably. To show the unfairness here, the government is recommending that residences be taxed at 50 per cent of the market value assessment. Right now they are taxed at approximately 85 per cent of the assessment.

I'd like also to mention the Niagara Escarpment Commission. As far as I'm concerned, it should be scrapped. It never really should have come into existence in the first place. What would have made more sense would have been an agricultural land commission. This would have protected our farm land, would have made provision for hydro corridors going on land that isn't viable farm land or at least keeping them to lot lines where it wouldn't interfere with farming operations. It could have protected against the rampant building that's going on now on farm land. What we are doing is protecting food land for the groundhogs and not considering anything about the people themselves.

How many people really know what is happening on the Niagara Escarpment that stretches from Niagara Falls to the tip of the Bruce Peninsula, with a width of 12 miles in some places? I would suggest if we are going to have to put up with this Niagara Escarpment ruling, the width of it is going to have to be cut down to somewhere around 300 feet on either side of the escarpment ridge instead of the 12 miles that it is right now. This land is poor land and it should be made available for building on, instead of

the good farm land that we are building on today. Here it is, this land we can't get permits to build on.

[9:30]

There are a lot of things that come up in the Niagara Escarpment rulings that are hard to understand. In the regulations you have to abide by certain colours on your buildings, and some people say this isn't right. This is rumour, but it is right. There are a couple of cases that I know of for sure. One guy had to take the siding off his building because it wasn't the right colour. Another guy had the siding bought and he had to return it and get the proper colour, because the Niagara Escarpment Commission had turned it down.

Another case concerned a doctor who came up from Toronto and built a home on a 15-acre parcel of land. The farmer next to him had a 15-acre parcel of land. He was born there and he was over 70 years old at this time, and he applied for a building permit for these 15 acres. The doctor next to him objected, and his application for a development permit was turned down. Here is a farmer who lived there all his life applying for a building permit. The doctor came from Toronto and he got a building permit, and what he was objecting to was exactly the same thing that he had done himself—building a house on 15 acres of rough land. Yet when the farmer asked for this he objected and the farmer didn't get it. It was turned down by the Ministry of Housing hearing.

The farmer came to me and asked what he should do, and I said to go back and start over again and do the same thing, because this is definitely unfair and somewhere along the line it has to be corrected. The trouble is, it cost him \$50 to try again, but that's what he did. The next time, with changing the house a few feet on the rough land and making a few minor adjustments, it went through. Of course, the hearing board can only be embarrassed so many times, and maybe it finally came to realize what is fair.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission also says it is passing 85 per cent of the applications that come to it. I wonder if they realize how many people are being turned off by the regulations and aren't going through the procedure of applying. All the red tape, rules and regulations have just turned so many of these people off that they don't even bother applying. Of course, this also goes for a lot of building today. You have to go through so many procedures before you get your house built it begins to make you wonder whether it's worthwhile or not. Only those who are very persistent and stay with it for a long

period of time and have a lot of money to spend are the ones who eventually get through to building a house.

I'd like to point out that having controls on this land also puts the price of building lots up. The government owns enough land right now that it doesn't have to put restrictions on the Niagara Escarpment land. In Grey county alone, the government owns 1,106,000 acres of land. That's 1,106,000 acres of land owned by the government through different ministries and the conservation authorities. In Bruce county, they own almost as much—773,000 acres. There is enough land, right here, for the people from the urban centres to come out and walk over and look at without tying our land up so that we can't develop it or look after it the way we have for the past several generations.

Not only should these controls be removed, but we should also have legislation that would allow for no trespassers without written permission from the owner, and this should be enforceable by the game wardens. We who own the land, bought it and paid for it, shouldn't have trespassers any more than the people down here in Toronto should have people coming in and using their swimming pool in their backyard. Neither should any more of our land in this day and age be used continually for landfill sites.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: What's worse, development on the escarpment or filling in old gravel pits?

Mr. Gaunt: It's nice of the minister to stick around.

Mr. McKessock: The money that has been spent in Toronto on the experimental recycling, et cetera, is questionable. There are companies right now which have incinerators of various sizes on the market—

Mr. Mancini: Why doesn't the minister look them up?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: They won't buy them up there.

Mr. McKessock: We would buy them, and I believe the government should provide 50 per cent grants to help these municipalities buy them. They would then need only 20 per cent of the land that they are using now for landfill sites.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: How about operating expenses? Fifty per cent of them too?

Mr. McKessock: The incinerators on the market today don't even pollute the air. I don't think a lot of people realize that they

are new, modern incinerators. There is no smoke. They're just like your self-cleaning ovens; you heat them up to a certain temperature, then you open the door and clean out the ash.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: And let out the smoke.

Mr. McKessock: I think we certainly should be moving ahead in that area and protecting our farm land in this way as well.

While I'm on the environment, I'd also like to mention again the five sewage projects in Grey riding that are held up for lack of funds—Meaford, Thornbury, Neustadt, Flesherton and Hanover.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: What about the ones that are going ahead?

Mr. Sargent: It's funny how things never change.

Mr. McKessock: They are going ahead too slowly for this day and age. There is sewage running down the streets. Six years ago, the Ontario Water Resources Commission told Neustadt if they didn't clean up their act, they'd fine them \$500 a day until they did. That was six years ago. Environment has now taken it over but, six years later, there are still no sewers. The local health authorities say it is a health hazard and they have sent letters to the town telling them that they must proceed with the sewer project. The Minister of the Environment told me today in question period that they don't pay any attention to the local health authorities.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I didn't say that.

Mr. McKessock: They send their own men down to reassure the village that everything's okay. Would this be allowed to go on in Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes.

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. McKessock: Sewage running down the street?

Mr. Hall: Or Burlington?

Mr. McKessock: The local health authorities are concerned because they are the people who are there. The ministry people only have to look at it once a year when they come up—

Mr. Sargent: Or a Tory riding.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: No, no. You live right in the riding.

Mr. Ferrier: Would you let it go on in Burlington?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Once in a while.

Mr. Sargent: The minister swims in the stuff, doesn't he?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Grey has the floor. Will he continue?

Mr. McKessock: Money is made available for many other things that I don't believe have the priority. There is \$67 million set aside in the Throne Speech for learning our second language and \$5,000 for every municipality that would like to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. It wouldn't surprise me a bit if the government would make money available for the restoration of the John Diefenbaker house in Neustadt before Neustadt gets sewers. It might be that Neustadt would be able to get enough money for this restoration programme of the John Diefenbaker house to put in their sewers as well.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I think John can service his own home. Let John put sewers in his own home. Why should the province do that? He is an author; he made a lot of money from royalties.

Mr. McKessock: Good idea. I would appreciate if you would write him a letter to that effect.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Grey is the only person who has the floor.

Mr. Riddell: He's doing a good job, too.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would he continue please?

Mr. McKessock: While I am still on environment, I would like to say that we should be putting more research money into solar and wind energy, and methane gas.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Cut down on gas too.

Mr. McKessock: We could cut down on hydro a little and promote these other areas which involve continual natural, renewable resources.

Mr. Roy: What about hot air, George?

Mr. McKessock: And also hydro rates should be changed so that the user pays. It only encourages the misuse of hydro now when the more you use, the less you pay.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Are you going to circulate this speech all over your riding?

Mr. McKessock: Would you like a copy, George?

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. Minister of the Environment kindly let the hon. member for Grey continue his speech uninterrupted?

Mr. McKessock: Also, the ones who are using the most hydro are the ones who are contributing to the capital cost. If we didn't use so much we wouldn't have to build so many nuclear plants and we wouldn't need so much capital money spent. So it is only fair that the people who are using it are the ones that should have to pay the most money.

I would like now to switch a little to the welfare programme of the province. I think they should come forth with a programme where the people who are on welfare, those who are able to work, would be let out to any employer who would accept them, free of charge.

Mr. Angus: Sounds like slave labour to me.

Mr. Warner: It's called slavery.

Mr. McKessock: I am quite in favour of welfare for those who are unable to work, but I do not believe in people being paid money if they are able to work.

Mr. McClellan: What about the work-house? That should fit in the Liberal programme well.

Mr. McKessock: This programme could be very well implemented by local municipalities. They could be let out to the people to shovel their snow or to sweep the streets, or whatever.

Mr. McClellan: With a whip?

Mr. McKessock: Even if it cost a little more money it would be worthwhile because we are deteriorating our society—

Mr. Cassidy: You want all the deserted mothers out shovelling snow?

Mr. McKessock: —by allowing people to accept money for no work.

An hon. member: Easy, kid, easy!

Mr. Cassidy: Do the kids have to shovel snow too? The six-year-olds?

Mr. Ferrier: Why don't you create the jobs?

Mr. McKessock: And to make sure that this programme wasn't misused, any employer who accepted one of these people on welfare could maybe only have him for three months and then he would have to go back to somebody else. So there are ways that it could be controlled.

Mr. Angus: Recycle them.

Mr. Cassidy: What about the people on compensation who can't find light work?

Mr. McClellan: Why don't you sell their children? Give the money to the welfare recipients.

Mr. McKessock: I can see when I start talking about welfare that the NDP pipes up, because if they had their way they would have everybody on welfare.

Some hon. members: Oh!

Mr. Warner: We'd have everybody working.

Mr. Ferrier: They would be working.

Interjections.

Mr. McKessock: Finally, I would like to congratulate the government on the decentralization of some of the ministries. It is good to see that some of these ministries are going to be moved out of Toronto. I wonder if maybe in the move they will lose a lot of the surplus civil servants in the shift. It may be a government plan to ditch a lot of them when they do move out.

Mr. Angus: Just reclassify them.

Mr. McKessock: Someone asked me the other day how the civil service got so large. I said, "It is impossible to fire them. If one doesn't do his job, the government hires another one to see that he does."

I would like to make the suggestion that if they would like to move the Ministry of Agriculture and Food out, maybe they would move it into the Dundalk, Harriston or Palmerston area. All these areas are good farming areas, and I think they would make an ideal spot for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to present some of my views and comments and I thank you for the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Algoma-Manitoulin.

Mr. Reed: There is nobody on that side so we will give you a hand, John.

Mr. Lane: Thank you very much.

Mr. Reed: Your friends are over here.

An hon. member: John for minister.

Mr. Lane: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate in the Throne Speech debate of the fourth session of the 30th Parliament of the province of Ontario.

Mr. Roy: Make it good.

Mr. Lane: I think the Throne Speech was the best ever—certainly the best in my years as a member of this government.

Mr. Mancini: That is what you said the last time.

[9:45]

Mr. Lane: Well, it is better this time.

Mr. Speaker, this is my first opportunity this session to express my appreciation to you and your assistants for the very fair and efficient way in which you run the business of this House on a day-to-day basis. Although your task is often very difficult, I have always known you to be very fair. I thank you for a job well done.

Many items in the Throne Speech are very important, especially in the troubled times we find ourselves living in today. Perhaps the most important item in the long term is the steps being taken to strengthen Confederation. I think the Forum on Canadian Destiny to be sponsored by this government in June of this year could indeed be the mechanism to weld this country together and do much to shape its future.

Each and every one of us must make a very strong commitment to our communities and to our country. We must be prepared to take a little and give a lot to build a strong nation. If we in Ontario, the greatest province within Confederation, set an example of fairness and stability, we can show other provinces within Confederation that in our province personal success is attainable for all those who are willing to make a fair contribution. We must be sure each citizen has an opportunity to participate fully in all the aspects of life in this province.

I believe that if our people attend the Forum on Canadian Destiny showing this type of an example and determination to have one nation, a strong and democratic society, this attitude and this type of leadership from this province can go a long way in solving the problem of separation and other major crises that face this country today.

Mr. Angus: You really don't believe that, do you?

Mr. Lane: Unemployment is at a very high level today and we must do everything we can to get as many of our people off the unemployment lists as possible. However, we must remember there is a very fine line or a very fine balance between inflation and unemployment. If we are to help the unemployed without an increase in inflation, we must balance our economy on that very fine line.

The concern expressed in the Throne Speech about occupational health and safety of the working men and women of this province is a concern we all feel very deeply for. I am glad to see the mechanisms that are being developed to improve this situation.

I also think the provisionary period for new drivers of automobiles will save many lives and prevent much painful injury. I am sure when we see the final report from the select committee on highway safety there will be other recommendations to improve safety on the highways, because we all know there have been many needless deaths and much injury. I hope that in the future measures will be taken to prevent these tragedies and keep them to a minimum.

The concern expressed about the need for assistance to small business is very timely. Small business is having a very difficult time today competing with the giants in industry. The small businessman and the farmer have been the backbone of this country over the years. I am pleased to see special mention was made in the Throne Speech of both these very important groups of people.

I was glad to see the multicultural character of our province highlighted. Of course, my interest has increased, and it has always been a very special interest to me, by the reference to helping children with special needs and to benefits to improve the lot of our senior citizens. I think that the Throne Speech put special emphasis on these matters.

I could go on at great length about many interests to me and the people I represent. But I will be a bit selfish and discuss the one item which made this Throne Speech more important to me than any other Throne Speech since I've been a member of this government, and that is the portion dealing with the setting up of a new ministry for northern affairs.

Mr. Angus: Why don't you leave that one alone?

Mr. Lane: Mr. Speaker, I am sure you and many others in this assembly will recall I spoke on several occasions in the past two years about the great need for a ministry to serve the sparsely populated areas of the north. During the past summer I conducted a survey and sent out over 300 letters to municipalities, Indian reserves and many other organizations in northern Ontario. The return from this effort was excellent. Over 75 per cent of the replies were in favour of a northern ministry. In addition to the survey, I spoke on several radio programmes, met and spoke with a large number of organizations across the north and wrote many columns for newspapers on the matter. The fact of the cabinet shuffle last February brought about the appointment of the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier) as the first Minister of Northern Affairs.

Mr. Swart: That ought to kill it.

Mr. Lane: The Throne Speech sets out the reason why this new ministry is required and also confirms legislation for this ministry. It gives me a great deal of satisfaction, to say the least. I think this is an historic event for the people of the north and will at long last allow the people of the north an opportunity to really become involved in the political process and, hopefully, provide them with the same economic advantages as have been available to those living in other parts of this great province.

Mr. Makarchuk: Did you vote for Leo?

Mr. Lane: The Premier pointed out in a statement in the House on April 7, 1977, that the north comprised almost 90 per cent of the land area of this province and made a comparison that one could set France and Germany down in northern Ontario and still have room to spare.

Mr. Davidson: Page 4.

Mr. Lane: Many people in this province never have seriously thought about the great expanse of the country that northern Ontario includes and few realize that people living in Halifax are closer to Queen's Park than many people living in parts of northern Ontario.

Mr. Angus: In more ways than one.

Mr. Lane: It gives me a great deal of pleasure to have been the member to have brought the need to the attention of the government, and I'm sure that as we watch the result of this Ministry of Northern Affairs unfold, we will see the great benefits it can

and will provide. I'm sure in the years to come we will look back and ask why we waited so long to provide this much needed facility.

Mr. Angus: How many years, John, how many years?

Mr. Lane: I was very surprised recently to hear the hon. member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), he's not here tonight, say while participating in the Throne Speech debate that although a portion of his riding includes a part of Nipissing he did not want to receive any benefits from this new ministry. I find this statement very hard to understand, because I personally like this young man and I have a great deal of respect for him. I'm sure it can't be a matter of party politics, because on May 11, 1976, which is just pretty near a year ago, the hon. member for Rainy River (Mr. Reid), while I was making a speech in the House and talking about the ministry, got into a conversation with me, and I'll just read a little portion here:

"Mr. Lane: For this reason I projected the idea of a ministry of northern Ontario; something for those people in the north to relate to."

"Mr. Reid: That's a Liberal programme. You are stealing our programmes now."

"Mr. Lane: The member can support me. I'll be glad of his support. I think it's a good idea."

"Mr. Reid: We have been saying that for five or six years."

"Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue without interruption."

Mr. Samis: That is the best one.

Mr. Angus: That must be Jack Stokes.

Mr. Roy: Leave the Speaker out of this.

Mr. Lane: "Mr. Reid: I just want him to know someone is listening." Well, I thought I had the support of the people in the third party.

Mr. Davidson: Why don't you read the rest of it?

Mr. Angus: Not the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, you didn't.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: What would you know about Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce?

Mr. Angus: They write me letters.

Mr. Lane: But listening to the member for Renfrew North the other morning I was really concerned to think that he didn't really

want his constituents who actually live in northern Ontario to receive any benefits from this ministry, and it's difficult to understand this, very difficult.

Mr. Roy: Are you happy with Leo Bernier as minister?

Mr. Lane: Sure, let's see how he performs.

Mr. Roy: That is what you think of the north.

Mr. Lane: I did expect this type of response from some of the members of the opposition.

Mr. Angus: Send him up new pages, John.

Mr. Lane: In fact, the records have shown that on several occasions while speaking on this very important matter in the chamber the leader of the official opposition and other members of that caucus have taken issue with me on this matter in a very negative way.

I would add that if each and every member of this House representing a northern riding is truly honest with himself he will admit that the people of the north need and deserve a ministry to deal with the many problems that are peculiar to the north. Any member expressing otherwise would be indicating a greater interest in being re-elected than providing positive facilities for the benefit of the people he represents.

I think it is very unfortunate, and I was very unhappy tonight to hear the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) condemning this new ministry without ever having had a chance for the ministry to try its wings and see what it can do for our people.

Mr. Germa: You know it is all politics.

Mr. Ferrier: Leo Bernier is in charge; that is enough.

Mr. Lane: I think it is unfortunate that the leader of the official opposition boast about having nine ridings in northern Ontario, and yet there wasn't any support at all, in any measure at all, to provide a very much needed facility for the people in the north to get involved in the political process and really have something to say about the future of this country. I think it's most unfortunate.

Mr. Angus: How about appropriate government, John?

Mr. Lane: Mr. Speaker, I have spoken at some length about the very positive way matters of great importance have been dealt with in the Speech from the Throne. I will admit,

however, that one item I hoped would be included, and a matter which I've promoted since I was first elected in 1971, was missing.

Mr. Angus: Nobody's listening to you, John.

Mr. Lane: That's an effort to equalize the price of gasoline and oil in the province of Ontario. Since it's not included in the Throne Speech, I'm introducing in a few days a private member's bill, which I hope will receive the support of all members of this assembly.

Mr. Davidson: Sinking lower and lower, John.

Mr. Lane: We in this province are all Ontarians and we should all receive equal treatment and opportunity. Yet in many cases towns and villages in the north, as well as elsewhere in this province, are paying 15 cents more per gallon of gasoline and 10 cents more for fuel oil than other people in the large urban areas.

Mr. Davidson: That was told to you last fall.

Mr. Lane: A car is a necessity in the north because many of the smaller areas do not have a good public transportation system and one must travel greater distances to get from point A to point B. Therefore we must burn more fuel accordingly. To have to pay more per gallon than our friends in large urban areas is an insult and a matter that I feel must be corrected.

Mr. Makarchuk: Throw the rascals out.

Mr. Warner: You had 34 years to do it.

Mr. Lane: I'm told by those who should know, that the oil companies are no longer making large profits.

Mr. Makarchuk: What? The Minister of Energy (Mr. Taylor) says they are.

Mr. Lane: Well, I'm told that they're not.

Mr. Angus: Who told you? The oil companies?

Mr. Lane: Well, my heart doesn't exactly bleed for those people—

Mr. Davidson: You said they should know.

Mr. Reed: Don't pay attention to them, John.

Mr. Lane: —but I have no quarrel with them making a reasonable profit.

Mr. Reed: They're biased, John.

Mr. Davidson: Reasonable!

Mr. Lane: However, I do believe they should average out distribution and other costs and be required to provide the same product to all the retail outlets in this province at the same price.

Mr. Davidson: What do you consider reasonable?

Mr. Lane: This does not prevent one company from charging a different price than another, because we all know that efficiency and other factors can have an overall effect on cost. It does not take away from the private enterprise system because it still leaves competition between distributors and retailers. I may choose to pay a few cents more because I like a certain brand of fuel or I like the service I get at a certain—

Mr. Makarchuk: It all comes out of the same spout.

Mr. Lane: —service station, but to pay 15 cents or more per gallon in some of these areas of the province over other areas is ridiculous. It's not only that Ontarians are not being treated equally—

Mr. Davidson: Great.

Mr. Lane: —but the tourist industry also suffers real damage. This industry could and should grow rapidly in the north. However, a would-be visitor to the north—

Mr. Davidson: Why do you support a two-price system then?

Mr. Lane: —looks at the distance that he or she must travel and takes into account the tremendous increase in the cost of fuel over the other areas and the planned holiday is likely to be spent elsewhere. This we cannot afford.

Mr. Davidson: You support a two-price system.

Mr. Lane: Mr. Speaker, while I have been dealing with the price of gasoline, I want to point out that the same applies to the cost of oil to heat homes and to supply heat to industries in the north.

Mr. Davidson: You still support a two-price system.

Mr. Lane: Not only is the weather colder in the north and the heating season longer, but in many cases the cost of fuel oil is much higher than in the large urban areas. This means that the cost of living is much higher for some in this province than for others. I

again want to point out that we are all Ontarians and we should all receive the same consideration.

Mr. Speaker: I want to thank you for this opportunity provided for taking part in this debate. Thank you.

Mr. Davidson: Say that to your own party.

Mr. Samis: Talk to Taylor, John.

Mr. McClellan: Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, let me say how pleased I am that—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Before you start, I hope that your colleagues in your own party will give you a better hearing than they gave the last speaker.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I guarantee you we won't.

Mr. McClellan: I was about to say, Mr. Speaker, how pleased I was that you were in the chair and how utterly and ruthlessly impartial you are and how much all of us on all sides of this House appreciate it.

Mr. Breithaupt: However.

Interjections.

Mr. McClellan: I want to speak in support of the amendment to the motion and I want, first of all, to spend a minute or two describing the riding that I represent, the riding of Bellwoods in the centre west end of downtown Toronto.

Bellwoods is the traditional reception area of Toronto. It's the area where new Canadians have always come—

Mr. Reed: It's the hot springs.

Mr. McClellan: —to make their first home in this country. I think Bellwoods has been the traditional first home for new Canadians in Toronto for probably 70 or 80 years, and it remains the same today.

If there's one thing that my constituents would want me to say and to argue for as vigorously as I can, it's for government policies which create jobs and give work to people. Because the people who live in my riding came to this country to work. They came to this country from Europe and Asia to escape economies that were unable to provide them with jobs that would give them a decent standard of living for themselves and for their children more particularly. That's why they came to this country; that's why they work in the toughest jobs, the most dangerous jobs in construction; and in factories

that, by and large, aren't unionized, are rather dangerous places to work and don't pay very well. But they came here to work and work is what they want. They don't like being pawns to ideologues on the government benches testing out their new-found enthusiasm for obsolete economic theories.

[10:00]

Darcy McKeough's newfound zeal for Milton Freedman's economic theories are leading us headlong into a depression and my constituents don't like being used as pawns in those kinds of foolish exercises. They expect government to stimulate the economy to provide jobs for people. They expect government to invest. They expect government, if necessary, to be an employer of first resort. They do not expect that a government will allow employment to reach the astronomical levels that it is approaching today. They don't expect a fraudulent anti-inflation programme like the one we have been saddled with; like the one the government has so enthusiastically adopted despite the fact that in the last few months inflation is back up at the level of 10 per cent—10 per cent, Mr. Speaker—and unemployment seems likely to match that hideous rate of inflation.

We are not prepared, in this caucus and in this party, to support a government that is willing to say to a budget as irrelevant as the federal budget of a few weeks ago—willing to say, in the face of such massive unemployment and such real suffering in ridings such as mine where the unemployment rate among construction workers is approaching 30 per cent—that this is "heavy medicine." I believe that was the Treasurer's phrase.

In the body of my speech, I wanted to address myself to a particular concern of mine and many of my colleagues. In December, 1976, I believe, on the last day of the last session, the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) tabled the report of the interministerial committee on residential services. That report contained a condemnation of Ontario's social service system more savage than anything one could imagine. Over the years we have not spared the resources of vituperation in describing the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Yet, I doubt that any of us, in our most truculent moments, have ever approached the kind of condemnation of Ontario's social service system that was delivered up by the ministry's own staff, by the deputy minister and by senior civil servants from a number of ministries.

The kind of chaos in Ontario's social service system that the interministerial report revealed

is almost unimaginable. In the field of child care, we are told that in any of a dozen residential programmes spread among three different ministries, where a kid goes is purely a matter of chance. Whether a kid goes into the child welfare system; whether a kid goes into the health system; whether the kid goes into the correctional system—is purely a matter of chance. The family court in this province has, in the last year and a half, completely by-passed the existing social service system and has been placing children without reference to the existing social service system because of the degree of dislocation and dysfunction within the social service system.

The combined bureaucracy is simply grotesque: Some six ministries administering some 26 pieces of legislation over some 50 different bureaucracies producing almost, at random, 24 residential service programmes. The ministries combined spend some \$600 million without the slightest idea of what it is they are purchasing or what benefit those dollar expenditures give to the people of this province, and the real harm is obviously spelled out in the report in terms of what happens to the recipients of service. I believe my colleague from Peterborough (Ms. Sandeman) will be addressing herself to the needs of senior citizens. I want to talk just for a few minutes about child care services in Ontario, because that was what was addressed in the Speech from the Throne.

We were offered in the Throne Speech what was purported to be a major reform in response to the revelations of the inter-ministry report. We were offered three components to that report—the transfer of all child welfare services into one mini-ministry within Community and Social Services; something called local children's services committees; and, somewhere in the dim distant future, a reform of legislation described as the omnibus children's bill.

First, I want to express the most profound apprehensions about the prospect of transferring all services to children to the Ministry of Community and Social Services. There is virtually nothing in the rather wretched history of that ministry that gives us the slightest bit of confidence in its capacity to absorb so many vital child care services.

They have, in fact, done a rather disastrous job with what they have already. The mental retardation programme has not been a success. The attempts at normal community living for the retarded have not been a success, and there is no reason to believe that they have the slightest capacity as a ministry to deal with the introduction of all child welfare

services. We are pleased with the appointment of Judge Thomson. We think he is a good choice, but we maintain those reservations and apprehensions about the capacity of the ministry to absorb so many services.

Aside from the question of the organizational transfer, the rest of the promises in the Throne Speech are remarkably vague. Not a shred of detail has been provided with respect to the omnibus children's legislation, so we have absolutely no idea what it is that the government is proposing to do by way of rationalizing the 10 or 12 pieces of legislation that now govern the provision of services to children. And we don't have a clue—not a single, solitary clue—as to what they are talking about when they use the phrase "local children's services committees." There is not a shred of description, not a glimmering of a clue what it is that they are talking about.

The reality is, Mr. Speaker, that they don't know. They are flying by the seat of their pants. They are engaged in what is, I am sure, for them a very pleasant exercise in public relations. They have appointed, as a government, a new and rather plausible minister who has in turn appointed a young and rather plausible assistant deputy minister, and on the strength of that they have issued their April policy statement, as promised in the Throne Speech, saying that they are going to solve the chaos in child welfare services through the device of the omnibus children's bill and the local children's services committee without having the slightest clue what it is that they are talking about.

I am afraid that nothing short of a radical restructuring of Ontario's social service system is going to address itself to the kinds of problems that the residential services report reveals. It is not going to be sufficient to tinker with bits and pieces. The organizational transfer itself simply offers the promise of warehousing all of the chaos in child welfare in one great, rather Kafkaesque, central bureaucracy. It does nothing about addressing itself to the real problem.

We should keep in mind what the object of the exercise is.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The member for Kitchener is hired.

Mr. Foulds: What's that, the odd couple over there?

Mr. Warner: Which one is Felix?

Mr. Reed: There is nothing like being here to listen to an orator.

Mr. McClellan: The object of the exercise is to make it possible to provide preventive social services at the community level. It's not sufficient to deal as Ontario has been doing for as long as the ministry has existed. It's not sufficient to deal with family breakdown once it's occurred. We need to put in place a social service system that addresses itself to providing services to families and individuals before they break down, before their children come into care, and before senior citizens are forced to suffer the indignity of unnecessary institutional incarceration.

There are a number of options, a number of possibilities, a number of models, which have already been developed and tested in other jurisdictions, and even here in our own country. I wanted to spend a minute or two outlining to you, Mr. Speaker, what might have made sense by way of an alternative in the policy statement entitled, *Special Services for Children*.

In 1969, the Commission on Emotional and Learning Disorders in Children issued its report—that is, some eight years ago. They presented to us a clear and detailed model of how a government might go about restructuring the social service system so that it was capable of providing preventive social services and so that it was capable of providing services to individuals and families before breakdown occurred. I want to remind the House of what was suggested eight long years ago.

The CELDIC report called for an absolutely fundamental reorganization of social service by locating the responsibility for planning and delivering social services at the local community level. They proposed that this would be done through the establishment of a community services board at the local level, which would promote, plan and develop in co-ordination the establishment of a comprehensive network of services at the local community level, which would establish priorities for the development of services and which would have the jurisdiction and authority over the distribution of public funds. Services under the CELDIC model would be delivered through community service centres. Such centres would be established in areas of between 25,000 and 50,000 population.

The community service centres would combine at the point of delivery at the local community level all of the essential services which are required in a modern society. These are services which must be provided not as philanthropic gestures but as matters of social rights and on the basis of being social util-

ities as essential to survival as roads or electricity or running water. Those services would include counselling for individuals, family counselling, addictions counselling, child protection, unmarried parent counselling, public health nursing, public health social action programmes, foster and adoption home-finding programmes, group home care, homemaker services, home nursing services and social services to the courts and to the schools and to hospitals and to the correctional system.

[10:15]

Through these community centres, they would provide personnel to maintain necessary social services to schools, hospitals, mental health facilities and family physicians. They would operate and supervise group homes, in-patient facilities for children and the aged, foster homes, boarding homes and day care. Instead of warehousing everything together at the centre in the way this government is seeming to do, the CELDIC report suggested that what makes sense is to integrate services at the local community level, where people live; and bring them under the control of local communities and allow the local communities to participate in the planning of what's needed in their own neighbourhood in the delivery of services.

Mrs. Campbell: But not the financing.

Mr. McClellan: I know the member for St. George agrees that makes a lot more sense than to lump everything together in one great chaotic mess. That's a sensible alternative we had thought would be in the policy statement that was forthcoming. I can't tell you, Mr. Speaker, how surprised and disappointed we were that after two years of work since the interministry report was produced in April 1975, we were given only some indescribable, indefinable and completely ephemeral entity called the local children's service committee.

We conclude that the major thrust of the Throne Speech with respect to child care services is simple bunk. This government has no more idea of how to deal with the mess in children's services today, in April 1977, than it did in April 1975 when it first received the interministry report. And as the minister said, most surprisingly of all, they are now entering a period of consultation with municipal governments, with social agencies and, I suppose, with whoever will tell them how they are to get out of the mess they are now in.

I have talked to people in the court, in the children's aid societies and in municipal gov-

ernment, and not one of them has the slightest idea what it is that the government wants them to consult about. How can you consult about something which is not defined, which is not described, which is simply called a local children's services committee and which somehow is going to be bounced out into the air like a basketball, without even the shape of a basketball?

It's absolutely absurd, and yet the minister is saying that he is going to enter into a period of intense consultation, beginning almost immediately—within the next week or two—and the social service community is going to respond to this major initiative from the government in the Speech from the Throne, with respect to children's services. It is such patent nonsense that it surprises me that there was an expectation that anybody at all would be deceived. Nobody is deceived. Nobody is fooled for a second that this government is any closer to a solution than it was two years ago.

We are disappointed that the government did not take a concrete option, such as that presented in the CELDIC report and put it forward as a sensible, coherent, workable, practical and plausible alternative to the mess that exists in social services today.

The CELDIC option is not the only option. The Seeborn committee in Britain in the late 1960s presented an alternative way of reorganizing social services so that they can be integrated at the local community level. The Seeborn option differs from the CELDIC option only in that the functions described as vested in the community services board, they vest in local government within a municipal social service department. That, too, is a valid option.

It makes sense to empower local government with the responsibility, and the resources, the capacity and the backup support and consultation, to provide a comprehensive system of social services. That, if I may say, is an option that I lean towards rather strongly myself. It makes a lot of sense to locate the responsibility for preventive and personal support services and family support services with municipal government.

Yet that option was not presented either, although there was some kind of a vague suggestion that the local children's services committee will somehow, in some strange and mysterious and ephemeral way, have something to do with regional government. But we have no idea how.

Are they talking about a board of health-like structure, or are they talking about a committee of the municipal council, or are

they talking about an advisory committee to regional government, or are they talking about a committee that is made up of municipal representatives and board of education representatives and social agency representatives, or are they talking about anything at all? We cannot tell. It's a great shame, because the disruption of social services in this province is virtually complete. As I said before, it will not suffice simply to tinker with what now exists. It has to be transformed in a fundamental kind of way, and I doubt very much if this government will ever have the capacity to do that.

Let me conclude firstly by saying that we intend in this caucus to pursue these items as vigorously as we can when we are not quite so constrained by the clock, in the estimates and in the debates on the bill, because we are convinced that this major initiative in the Speech from the Throne is in fact very little indeed. And we intend to talk a great deal about it in this session.

Secondly, I would like, if I may, to make a few comments about the Workmen's Compensation Board. No instrument or agency of government, Mr. Speaker, causes so much pain and so much distress to the constituents of the riding of Bellwoods as the Workmen's Compensation Board. I said at the beginning that my constituents by and large worked in construction and by and large are new Canadians. They suffer a toll of industrial accidents that I doubt is equal in very many other ridings except perhaps those in the Sudbury basin. And I think it is fair and accurate to say that within the constituency of Bellwoods there is barely a family which has not had a close member or a close friend injured in an industrial accident and had some dealings, therefore, with the Workmen's Compensation Board.

I don't know if I can convey to you, Mr. Speaker, the kind of scandal that the Workmen's Compensation Board represents, for example, in the Italian community in the west end of Metropolitan Toronto. It is a simple disgrace and there is no reason why anybody in the province of Ontario needs to tolerate that kind of arrogant and callous and brutal treatment from an agency of government.

I am not simply engaging in rhetoric, Mr. Speaker, I am speaking on the basis now of almost two years' experience in my constituency office, day after day, week after week, with people coming in talking about being victimized by the Workmen's Compensation Board. And I have enough material in my own case load that I can validate that charge to the satisfaction, I think, of anybody in this

House. This is not simply a matter of partisan rhetoric.

Mr. Warner: All the minister does is defend them.

Mr. McClellan: It is a matter that conjures up the deepest anger and personal feeling.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You are a free-loader.

Mr. McClellan: I could go on, Mr. Speaker, to describe case after case after case of injured workers who have been treated in the most shabby and unbelievable way by the Workmen's Compensation Board. As with social services, I doubt that the tinkering is even worthwhile engaging in. As long as the adversary system of the Workmen's Compensation Board exists employers will be pitted against employees, the board will be playing one off against the other. It is now two years since the rates were raised? Perhaps the member from Riverside can recall how long it has been?

Mr. Bounsall: June, 1975.

Mr. McClellan: Since June, 1975, the workmen's compensation rates have not been raised. At the same time the board has an unfunded liability of some \$400 million.

It is, in a sense, the other side of the same coin, because the board is unwilling to impose adequate rates on companies within this province; and that gets reflected in every single case that one takes to the board, that kind of mean and petty seeking to protect the rates for the corporations.

We are faced with a kind of administrative incompetence within the Workmen's Compensation Board that is absolutely staggering. I had one constituent who, through a fault of the Workmen's Compensation Board, received an overpayment, in January, 1976. In July, 1976, the Workmen's Compensation Board decided to recover the overpayment, with no warning and no notice. This man was on temporary total disability; his cheque was suddenly cut off. He was then left to fend for himself, with no explanation and no notice and no warning, for a month.

We intervened and had his cheque restored. Then from the period of July, 1976, until January, 1977, his cheque was fouled up on every single pay period—every single pay period. We intervened every single pay period, with officials from one end of the Workmen's Compensation Board to the other; finally to the chairman and finally to the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson).

From July to January, every single pay period was fouled up. Finally the minister intervened and he was paid for two consecutive pay periods on time; and then it started again and it remains so to this day.

They are seemingly incapable of dealing with routine administrative matters. I see the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Brunelle) sitting opposite, who was the Minister of Community and Social Services. He will know that you do not recover an overpayment by docking somebody the entire amount of their social assistance cheque. He would never do that in the Ministry of Community and Social Services when he was minister, and he never did. It defies logic, it defies common sense, it defies humanity.

He also knows that it is not conceivable, even in the Ministry of Community and Social Services, for a payment on an individual constituent or client to remain fouled up for six, seven, eight consecutive months. Yet this is not unusual at the Workmen's Compensation Board, this is not an untypical story. Every one of us in this House can give, probably dozens, dozens of examples of

absolutely identical situations. It defies analysis, it defies understanding.

I see by the clock that I have run out of time. I just want to say that only a universal accident and illness insurance scheme, as has been advocated by this party, addresses itself to the problems of injured workers in this society and this community. We look for no hope of reforming the Workmen's Compensation Board, other than through the introduction of universal accident and illness insurance.

Thank you for your indulgence, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Have you completed your remarks?

Mr. McClellan: I have completed my remarks.

On motion by Mr. Sargent, the debate was adjourned.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Kerr, the House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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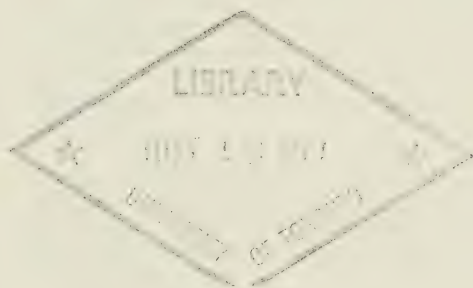
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Fourth Session, 30th Parliament

Thursday, April 14, 1977

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1977

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

LAND SPECULATION TAX EXEMPTION

Hon. Mr. Welch: A few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, following the decision of the public accounts committee to recommend to the House that the committee be relieved of its scrutiny of the exemption under the land speculation tax provided to Ronto Development and that a select committee be appointed to continue that work, there were some discussions among the usual channels of the parties in the House concerning the implications such an additional committee would have on the management of the assembly's work load.

The rather elaborate but very clear time-tables agreed to by the parties earlier this week and now posted indicate the concerns we have had about making the new rules and structures work for members on all sides. Earlier, in fact, the House passed a motion supporting the enhancement of the role of standing committees by the avoidance of appointment of additional select committees wherever possible.

Since the House reconvened, and despite peripheral questioning of the Minister of Revenue (Mrs. Scrivener), there has been no direct question or response dealing with the government's official reaction to the dormant report of the former public accounts committee.

Mr. Nixon: The questions were direct. The answers were peripheral.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Obviously our difficulty with that report stems from its failure either to acknowledge the all-party agreement on committee structures or to provide a means of examining the issue in a fair and balanced way, something which a judicial inquiry would indeed do.

The Premier (Mr. Davis) and I had been prepared to say in the House, had the matter

been raised directly, that such a judicial inquiry would not be inappropriate. Today I am announcing that such a judicial inquiry will be held, to commence as soon as a justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario can be freed from other duties; and so the name of the judge should be known in a few days and announced to the House.

In addition, the terms of reference for the inquiry will specify that the justice complete the inquiry within 30 days of commencement, and will also specify that there be an inquiry into the granting of an exemption to Ronto Development under the provisions of The Land Speculation Tax Act, 1974, and particularly whether or not any undue or inappropriate influence was brought to bear from any source on the decision to grant that exemption.

Mr. Speaker, our position has been and remains that the government has nothing to fear or to hide in this matter, and that such an inquiry is the appropriate forum for a full, objective and non-partisan resolution of this particular matter.

Earlier today, the opposition House leader put to the new public accounts committee a motion calling for such an inquiry, and I understand the motion was supported by all committee members present.

Mr. Sargent: With qualification.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I gather that the concerns for management of House business have by now been appreciated by some members opposite who made and supported the proposal for a select committee earlier.

ESSEX COUNTY FRENCH SCHOOL

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I will this afternoon be introducing legislation designed to ensure the construction of a French-language secondary school in Essex county.

The events leading to this legislation have unfolded over, of course, a long period of time. The high feelings and strong emotions that have been generating during the course of public discussion about this school are well

known, and I think there is no need for me to dwell at length upon them here today.

It is worth remembering, however, that it was as long ago as 1969 that the French language advisory committee of the Essex County Board of Education first recommended that a school be provided, and that this recommendation has been put forward consistently since that time. Further, the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario recommended in 1974 that the school be built.

Regrettably, however, we have come to a point where it is abundantly clear that the Essex County Board of Education has no intention of proceeding with the project of its own volition, now or in the foreseeable future.

This is why the legislation which we are introducing today has become necessary. We proceed with a sense of disappointment that legislation is required at all. It had been our earnest hope, indeed our expectation, that the board of education would itself have taken the initiative to build a secondary school for the French-speaking young people in its constituency, especially in view of the strong recommendations which have been made urging such a course of action.

However, Mr. Speaker, with the introduction of this legislation we recognize our responsibility, and we are proceeding with a firm sense of resolve and determination. As the Premier said in this Legislature last week, this province's commitment to our French-speaking citizens—to their educational language and social rights—is not to be diminished, regardless of events elsewhere in the nation.

This commitment is tied to our belief in an open, diverse and pluralistic society, strengthened by the vitality of our two founding peoples, and enriched by the presence of a multicultural milieu.

It perhaps could be viewed as ironic that this legislation affects an area of the province where there has been a French presence and tradition stretching back through most of our history.

This legislation that I am presenting today is simple and direct. It deems that the board of education has passed a resolution to construct a school to accommodate 750 French-speaking secondary school students and it directs the board to proceed, within 30 days, to select a site and to appoint an architect and other persons required for the purposes of constructing the school. The Act further directs that the board shall proceed forth-

with to have the school built, following the normal procedures which affect all school construction projects in this province.

The Act further provides that if the board fails to proceed in the manner directed in the bill, the government itself can proceed to have the school built. However, it is our sincere wish and expectation that the school board will move ahead, expeditiously and in good faith, to follow the wish of this Legislature and demonstrate a positive sense of leadership, which can be the starting point for a return to harmonious relations throughout Essex county.

For the sake of all concerned, I am sure that all members of this Legislature will give rapid and unanimous approval to this legislation as evidence of our united commitment to the rights of our French-speaking citizens, not only in Essex county but throughout Ontario as well. Nothing short of this, in the view of this government, would be appropriate if we are earnest in our stated wish to improve educational opportunities for our francophone students, and further to strengthen harmonious relations between French and English-speaking citizens wherever they may live in the province of Ontario.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Lewis: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Apart from expressing accord with the minister's statement, may I draw to your attention, sir—and to that of the minister and thank him for it—the first very full compendium we have received, as required under the new orders of the House, as background information from the minister. It is much appreciated; I hope it becomes practice.

Mr. Riddell: You guys are really getting into bed over there.

Mr. Speaker: I believe that's part of the new rules we are operating under; thank you very much.

Mr. S. Smith: They've had seven years to collect this information.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring the assembly up to date on the actions I have taken, as Minister of Health, to safeguard the psychiatric health care rights of Ontario residents.

First, I have now asked the Ontario Council of Health to make a complete review of all adult mental health services in the prov-

ince, to determine the range of services now offered, their distribution, accessibility and overall quality, and the relationship to children's mental health services; and, further, to make recommendations for the future development of adult mental health services.

This is a broad mandate, but I am hopeful that it will be possible to release a discussion paper containing the council's findings and recommendations for general public discussions by March 31, 1978.

This, I must make clear, is in addition to the review I asked the council, last month, to undertake of The Mental Health Act, with specific reference to the rights of involuntary patients, the right of a patient to receive or to refuse treatment, the confidentiality of patient information, special requirements applying to minors, responsibilities of non-medical staff, management of patients' or of former patients' estates, possible immunity of a psychiatric facility and its staff from liability in respect to injury or damage caused by a patient.

This is a major undertaking, as the assembly will realize. It would be unrealistic to expect the government to be in a position to submit legislative proposals for a complete revision of The Mental Health Act in less than two years. Nevertheless, two years is a long time. Accordingly, I intend to introduce, for the assembly's approval, proposals for interim changes on specific aspects of The Mental Health Act where and when these appear to be matters of urgency.

I think it will be clear from what I've said that I recognize room for improvement exists in our present mental health services. Nevertheless, I think it would be appropriate to remind members of the considerable progress made over the past 15 to 20 years.

Previously, mental health services were almost exclusively confined to a comparatively small number of psychiatric hospitals in Ontario. Over that period, however, we have been successful in having the services made more widely available in general hospitals across the province. By doing so we have moved these services much more fully into the main stream of health services generally. Having gone from psychiatric hospitals to general hospitals, we are now looking at community-based services involving workshops, living arrangements, counselling and rehabilitation services.

A considerable number of agencies and groups have parts to play in community-based mental health programmes. These include the Canadian Mental Health Association, social service agencies, public health departments

at the municipal level and the police, as well as the psychiatric units of local general hospitals. I foresee, in fact, that an increasing proportion of our future effort in mental health care will be in the area of community-based services.

[2:15]

To speak specifically now of Metropolitan Toronto, an up-to-date assessment of the mental health services in Metro has been undertaken by a task force on psychiatric care in co-operation with the Canadian Mental Health Association. This report should be available early this summer.

An attempt will be made in this report to identify the total mental health care system in Metro Toronto, both in its formal and informal approaches, and also to identify whatever gaps appear to exist in these services and to make recommendations.

The task force preparing the report is made up of mental health professionals, representatives of social agencies, and representatives of citizens' groups and individuals who have been meeting to discuss their concerns and perceptions of mental health services.

Mr. Foulds: When are you going to do something in Thunder Bay?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The House will also be aware that criticism has been levelled at the physical facilities at Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital and Whitby Psychiatric Hospital. Having personally inspected the Whitby hospital shortly after becoming Minister of Health, I have to confirm that many of the older buildings at both hospitals are inadequate for modern types of treatment.

However, since the Queen Street Mental Health Centre is now in the final stages of complete rebuilding and renovation, 15 consulting firms have been invited by my ministry to submit proposals for a role study and master programme development applying to all three facilities—Lakeshore, Whitby and Queen Street.

This study is to cover clinical services, teaching and research requirements, and all the necessary support services. Further, this study will outline the relationship that should be established among these three hospitals, as well as their inter-relationship with the psychiatric units of general hospitals in their respective catchment areas.

The submissions we have received have already been reduced to a short list now being considered by an internal steering committee, and I expect to announce the successful proposal later this month.

I would ask the assembly to regard this statement as a progress report. I believe, however, that the actions I have outlined will leave no doubt that I share the view that mental health care represents an aspect of the province's total health care system needing careful attention at all times.

Mr. Foulds: When are you going to do northwestern Ontario?

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

DISMISSAL OF MALE NURSE

Mr. Lewis: A question, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Health, if I may. Has he directed the administrator of the Etobicoke General Hospital that he would wish him to reinstate Mr. Honsberger, the nurse who commented on the waste and maladministration, in his mind, of the hospital, within the context that the minister does not wish people in the health sector to be punitively dealt with when they feel, in the public interest, they should bring such matters to public attention?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I think I made it clear in response to questions put to me in recent days by various media and particular groups that certainly I want people involved in the health care system to feel free to state their concerns. I would hope that, in the first instance, the hospital boards and administrators would operate their institutions in such a way that they would be receptive to those concerns, and where agreement exists on the need for amendments to procedures or whatever, that action will be taken there.

As far as my own office is concerned, I've again tried to make it clear that my door is open—however you want to take that figurative expression—and we'll always see to it that we follow up on any complaints or concerns. I have no authority, as the member knows, under The Hospitals Act, to order a reinstatement. Mr. Honsberger is an employee—a former employee at this point—of the Etobicoke General Hospital. Staff in the ministry were in touch this morning with the administrator, who indicated he felt he had other reasons than the one indicated in the letter, but I am satisfied that Mr. Honsberger has available to him a grievance procedure to follow due to their collective agreement.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, does the minister not realize that if the administrator of the hospital is able to get away with this punitive firing in a letter he himself

sets out, based on statements in violation of some hospital directive, press code, or whatever else it may be described as, then nurses all over the province who may legitimately want to bring to public attention concerns they have about hospital administration, such as the ONA has now done, will feel strait-jacketed, will feel that there will be punitive actions taken against them?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, let me also again repeat something I have said a number of times since the ONA brief came out.

One of my concerns about that brief when it was initially published was that they were not specific. As you know—I am sure you have read it, Mr. Speaker, as most members have by now—they talked about a problem in northwestern Ontario, a problem in eastern Ontario, without being specific. And that was a criticism I had of it; I said I want to know where those problems are.

Mr. Deans: Now you know.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I don't want names of people—the informants, if you will—but I want to know, because I think really that it begs the validity of the whole report unless we know, unless they are prepared to tell us. There is no reason why, through the ONA, I need to have the names of nurses or nurses' aides or RNAs or whomever so long as they are prepared to work with us in a co-operative spirit. Now I repeat, Mr. Honsberger was not an employee and is not an employee of my ministry. I have no authority to order a reinstatement.

Mr. Lewis: You closed hospitals, I remind you, without authority. You can reinstate a man.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Well, I didn't realize the member had also become a Supreme Court justice.

Mr. Mackenzie: That doesn't help very much.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: But I am satisfied that the gentleman in question does have sufficient grievance procedures available to him.

Mr. Philip: I wonder if the minister would not agree that the grievance procedure could likely take as much as six months; that two other nurses are presently, at this very moment possibly, before their hospital boards or before their hospital administration on a

similar kind of problem; and is it not time that the minister took some specific action to ensure professionals in the health field, when they are speaking out as professionals—as members of professional organizations—that punitive action will not be taken against them?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: This is why I made the point that certainly through the associations on this specific concern the avenues are open. But they are employees of individual hospital corporations whose boards set the terms and conditions of employment, those which are not otherwise covered by collective agreements. I have no authority to intervene and to dictate terms and conditions of employment. If there is a term or condition of employment—

Mr. Cassidy: You are the Pontius Pilate of the health field.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Pardon me, if you would just listen for once.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I have no authority to intervene in those terms and conditions of employment, but I am, as I say, satisfied that this procedure is there for grievance.

Now I do not know that it would take six months; I would be very concerned that it should not take six months. I would hope that it could be dealt with as soon as possible, and I will follow up on that.

Mr. Cunningham: Supplementary: Notwithstanding the fact that the minister may not have the legal authority to dictate to the boards of health or to hospitals that such pervasive activities not be considered, would he not consider it his moral obligation to write to the boards of health and to the hospitals and indicate, as the Minister of Health for the province of Ontario, that this kind of situation disturbs him greatly?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, let me inform the member that the boards of health do not run the hospitals. They are boards of those particular corporations.

Mr. S. Smith: He didn't say that.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I have already indicated that we have in fact this morning been in touch with that particular corporation to follow up on the press reports. So that, yes, our interest and our concern about it has already been conveyed.

METRO CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Treasurer, if I may, Mr. Speaker. Given the general state of unemployment, and given the Treasurer's previous intermittent interventions with the Ontario Municipal Board on other matters, would he be prepared to convene a meeting among the Ontario Municipal Board members and all of the mayors of the various municipalities in Metropolitan Toronto, to bring to bear the pressure of the provincial government, or the good offices of the provincial government, to free for immediate construction two projects: One, the series of housing projects which have been discussed before in this Legislature, part of Metroplan, and the other, the construction of the light rapid transit line through Scarborough; which two projects together would amount to something like 6,500 man-years of work immediately available?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: No, I would not. The Ontario Municipal Board reports to this Legislature through the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and the question might properly be put to the Attorney General.

Mr. Lewis: He has answered it.

Mr. Nixon: That's what you said last week when we asked the question.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The Attorney General has already indicated that he has been in touch with the chairman of the Ontario Municipal Board on the former matter. It seems to me that the council of Metropolitan Toronto in its constituent parts will, in their own good time, make up their mind whether they want or don't want some form of rapid transit, and at that point the Ontario Municipal Board will become involved. I don't think they have any involvement in it at this moment.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, does the minister not feel, given the present economic circumstances, that either he—or perhaps I should have directed it right to the Premier—should perhaps intervene, when the project will eventually proceed anyway? The jobs could be available now; these roadblocks make very little sense in the context of the unemployment figures.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I am not aware of any roadblock in the construction of the rapid rail, other than that Metropolitan Toronto have not yet decided to do it. I don't see it as part of my job, frankly, to tell Metropolitan Toronto what they should or should not do.

The Leader of the Opposition may see it that way over there, we don't on this side.

Mr. Sargent: How about the Spadina Expressway?

Mr. Hodgson: Respect your leader, Eddie.

Hon. Mr. Davis: What was that?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hamilton West has the floor.

Mr. Sargent: Have you told them about the Spadina Expressway, Bill?

BARRIE ANNEXATION PROPOSAL

Mr. S. Smith: Now that the Treasurer, Mr. Speaker, has decided he will no longer tell Metro Toronto what to do, perhaps he could say something about the plan for the south of Barrie.

Is the Treasurer aware of the existence of a report, submitted by the major developer to the south of Barrie, in which there is illustrated a land-use plan very similar, almost identical, to the land-use plan submitted by the city of Barrie in their annexation report? And is the Treasurer aware that the report of the developer had as its engineering consultant the same firm that in fact produced the Barrie annexation report?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The answer to both questions is no, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Bullbrook: And yet you intervened.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, now that the Treasurer has heard this, would he care to comment on the Barrie annexation study, on page 90, where they suggest that because the developers employed consultants to advise on the suitability of lands to be developed, that the Barrie annexation study recommends that that major land assembly in itself is excellent evidence as to why the annexation should take place, on precisely those lands? Does he have any comment at all on that particular aspect of the annexation report?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nixon: Are you going to continue to let the developers do the planning, just like they did in Norfolk—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: Let the developers do the planning.

Mr. S. Smith: I have another supplementary.

Mr. Good: You are really involved there, Darcy. Why are you promoting the annexation then?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: There will be another royal commission there.

Mr. S. Smith: Since the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) has still not seen fit to let us have the letter that went from his food lands division to the Treasurer's department, even though he has that letter, would the Treasurer kindly table the letter in question, regarding the use of agricultural land south of Barrie?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. S. Smith: Thank you.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary to the provincial Treasurer, since his letter to the OMB was based upon and included a projected population figure of 125,000 by the year 2011, and since that time the new study, Ontario's Changing Population, is projecting a figure of 50,600 by the year 2001—a discrepancy, now, of 75,000 in his own reports—why is he prepared to allow this kind of annexation to proceed, on false premises, chewing up at least 9,000 acres of prime agricultural land in the process?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I don't necessarily, nor have we accepted this policy. I presume the member is referring to—I think it is the Barnard report.

Mr. Lewis: That's right.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We haven't studied that, nor has it been accepted, on this side of the House at any rate, as some sort of manna from heaven.

Mr. Lewis: Well, the government commissioned it.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: But if in fact it is, we still would say—

Mr. Foulds: Manna from McKeough.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —that whatever growth there is to be in this province—and we happen to think that there will be some growth in this province and we are going to do our best—

Mr. Lewis: You sure do, all in one place; not in the north, not in the east, but always here.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: No, not always in Metropolitan Toronto; some of it will be in Barrie, whether the member likes it or not.

Mr. Lewis: Well by way of supplementary, to be specific—

Mr. Speaker: No, that was a final supplementary.

[2:30]

OHC OCCUPANCY POLICY

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Housing: Has it always been the policy of the OHC to evict people once their children grow up and they no longer, therefore, qualified as having dependants? Has this been a policy over the years or is it something new?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, that never has been the policy, and it is not the policy at this time to evict tenants once their children have grown up.

Mr. Lewis: It's to evict them before they grow up.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Some people never grow up.

Mr. Reid: Why are they all in one spot?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The policy is, that if a family is—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: We'd probably evict the member for Grey-Bruce just on general principle.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. minister just ignore the interjections?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: My apologies, Mr. Speaker. The policy is that if a family is occupying a unit in a family housing project, if it is a single parent, and if the children of that single parent have grown up and left home, then we would look at the eligibility of that particular tenant in that facility. If they are under the age of 60 and in good health and are employable, then they may well be asked to find accommodation elsewhere so that that particular facility would be available for someone with children who would qualify to occupy the premises.

It is not the policy to evict when the children have reached a certain age or are no longer in school, as was suggested quite

erroneously in the article in the Toronto Star today.

Mr. Bain: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Can the minister tell us then why the Timiskaming Ontario Housing authority evicts people who, when some of their children have left home, they say no longer qualify for the present unit they're in, and they are told to leave without any attempt to find another unit, even though the people still have other children at home?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I can't comment with any degree of authority on what may be happening in that particular area, but I can say in general that what we try to do is make sure that we are not over-housing the tenants in the facilities. If a family is in a project where it requires three bedrooms, and as a result of a change in the makeup of the family perhaps it requires only two bedrooms, then we would attempt to relocate the people, if possible within an Ontario Housing project, into a smaller facility that would meet their needs, and house someone in the larger facility who could use that accommodation. To say that they're simply evicted, I find a bit strange. I've never had that proposal suggested to me before. We try to relocate them in a smaller unit.

Mr. Bain: It happens.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Could the minister, therefore, clear up the matter that was raised in the Toronto Star with regard to Mrs. Pitney and her family, and the statement made by one Laura Plescia, according to this report an information officer with OHC, who said that the Pitneys were being evicted and the lease wasn't being renewed, and who pointed out that there are a great number of families with young children who need accommodation more than a single person who has no young children, or children attending school. That seems to contradict the point the minister just made.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, again I cannot be responsible for what has appeared in the article. I have not spoken to that particular officer to know whether or not those were the words that she, in fact, used. However, I just simply reiterate that it is not the intention nor the policy of Ontario Housing to simply evict people.

I can take the time, if it is desirable, to comment upon the situation that was reported in the paper. I won't go into too great detail, but in general the understand-

ing was that we were talking about a hypothetical situation that did, in fact, involve this particular tenant. In this particular case, the understanding that we had—when I say we, I mean OHC—was that the two sons were going to leave the project and that, in fact, the lady would be a single tenant in this particular unit, and she was advised, as I understand it, that she may not be eligible to be a tenant as a result of her particular circumstances, her age, her health and the possibility of her being able to work.

At the same time, it's my understanding that the tenant advised OHC officials that she was going to be leaving anyway, that she was getting married. The circumstances apparently changed, why, I don't know. But she is now not going to get married and, as a result, she will be remaining in that unit. She has not received an eviction notice. I understand as well that my officials will be contacting the individual who wrote the story in the Star to attempt to clear up this, I think, unfortunate misunderstanding.

LAND SPECULATION TAX EXEMPTION

Mr. Deans: I have a question for the Premier. With regard to the Ronto inquiry, is it the Premier's intention to place before the Legislature the terms of reference to be followed in the inquiry in order that they can receive perusal by and approval of the Legislature before the inquiry commences?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think it is the normal custom that a matter of this kind is determined by government. While I welcome the initiative of the standing committee and the very substantial change in approach, which I personally support, of moving from a select committee to what I think is a far more appropriate form, I would say with respect to the House leader of the New Democratic Party that I certainly have no objections at all to our House leader discussing with him, and with the House leader for the third party the proposed terms of reference. But I suggest with respect that we are talking here about something that is fundamental to the discharge of the responsibilities of government in this province—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and that the Lieutenant Governor in Council will pass an order in council which will establish the terms of reference. After this is done, if some members opposite have reservations and if they wish

to express either disappointment or, I would expect, very frankly, rather total support to the wording of the terms of reference, they will have opportunities to do this. But I do point out to the House leader, and I'm not attempting to be controversial, that this surely—

An hon. member: Or provocative.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, no.

Mr. Makarchuk: Stop weaselling.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would say to the hon. member for Brantford, if he is asking me, that the cabinet of this province will advise the Lieutenant Governor to sign an order in council which is part of our responsibility. It's as simple as that. So there's your answer. That's the way it should be done.

Mr. Lewis: Why do you say that?

Mr. Breithaupt: Without being provocative, as a supplementary, would it be possible to have those terms of reference made available before the order in council is passed so that if there are some reasonable changes that may come forward, they could be accommodated rather than have an order passed which might then not be fully satisfactory to all members?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'd be quite prepared to have our House leader discuss that in that we have had some suggested thoughts for a period of time.

Mr. Peterson: Give a few more supportive thoughts to the answer.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If the hon. member is available—and I must discuss it with our House leader—tomorrow morning at, say, 9 o'clock, and if the House leader for the New Democratic Party is available, perhaps the three of them could have a look at this. I would like to get the order in council passed forthwith because we are more anxious perhaps than some members opposite, who want to go the select committee route and have this prolonged for weeks and weeks on end, to see this matter finally disposed of.

POINTS OF ORDER

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, just before the comments of the Premier go by, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure you should be informed that the resolution to which he referred had a specific clause indicating that the select

committee should be established without delay and that it should have only six weeks to accommodate its purpose. I thought that that should be set clear before the point passed.

Hon. Mr. Davis: On a point of order, just so that there is no misunderstanding of what I said, I said week after week, which could include six weeks. I would think a judicial inquiry—

Interjections.

Mr. Ruston: You're playing with words now.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —would take substantially less time. I would point out to the hon. member who, I understand, was responsible for the initial recommendations—

Mr. Mancini: That is not a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —in the select committee report that that recommendation was contrary to the general expressed intent of the new procedures we're to adopt in this House, that is, to avoid select committees if at all possible.

Mr. Good: You're sure avoiding them.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I suggest that the route that has now been suggested, which we totally support, makes a great deal of sense and—it may come as a surprise to the Leader of the Opposition—we're ready.

Mr. Lewis: Ready for what?

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is getting into a debate. Is there a further point of order?

The hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Nixon: On a further point that the hon. Premier brought before us in his reference a moment ago, I'm sure he is aware that the agreement with reference to committees was that select committees should not be used except in matters of some importance. We happen to think this is a matter of importance whether he does or not.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Who is the leader over there?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. former leader of the Liberal Party is opposed to having this form of inquiry, why doesn't he say so?

An hon. member: There's a better way.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: He is the present leader, not the former leader.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, this is becoming a debate. It's out of order.

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, in response to the statement made by the Premier—I was going to say your leader, excuse me—by the Premier, who indicated that if I was opposed to this I should say so. Of course I think a royal commission is a good idea. I believe a select committee would be preferable, since this House referred it to the standing committee on public accounts. Surely that is the way that it should be dealt with.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is strictly a difference of opinion.

Mr. Makarchuk: I have a supplementary question of the Premier. I may not have heard the statement correctly but the way that the statement was read in the House, as I understood it, no reference was made in the statement to where the justice will have the power to investigate the payment of \$400,000 for undetermined services to one Mr. Ernest Goodman, as well as payments to consultants by the name of Hiram Walker, as well as payments to a fellow by the name of Reimer.

Mr. Speaker: Your question is?

Mr. Makarchuk: Are these matters going to be included in the terms of reference which will be investigated?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think this can get into a prolonged debate.

Mr. Makarchuk: Yes or no?

Mr. Nixon: You are aching for a debate on this. Let's have a debate on it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. Premier answer this question?

Hon. Mr. Davis: It's quite obvious you people have decided not to.

Mr. Nixon: Why have you ignored that resolution for two weeks?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I've been asked a question by the hon. member as to why we have ignored the resolution. As a matter of fact, that public accounts committee report really hasn't been before the House.

Mr. Nixon: It is printed in Order Paper No. 1.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, come on. You've changed your minds again. In answer to his question, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Nixon: It is in Votes and Proceedings of the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Flip-flop Nixon. You're a bigger flip-flop than your leader.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —I would anticipate the terms of reference will be such that the public interests will be well served. I will not get into a word-by-word analysis of what may be in that order in council, but I can assure the members of this House, and my experience has been, that these terms of reference give the commissioner adequate power to do what needs to be done.

Mr. MacDonald: Not always.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Bullbrook: Recognizing, rightly or wrongly, that we're burdened with the Premier's government and that he has the right to govern—

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: We are burdened with you.

Mr. Bullbrook: —in view of the fact that the traditional response isn't totally acceptable, and if I may say, in view of the fact that the terms of reference are totally deficient as far as one member is concerned—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is there a supplementary question?

Mr. Bullbrook: —is there any possibility of the Premier's broadening the traditional function of not taking it just to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, but giving this whole House, in this minority situation, an opportunity to discuss openly the terms of reference, which are so important to us all?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would only say to the hon. member for Sarnia, my experience here has been that he has never

been reluctant to express his point of view on any significant issue;—

Mr. Bullbrook: Give us the opportunity.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —on sometimes insignificant issues he has not been reluctant to express his point of view. I'm just saying, and I'm not attempting to be difficult, that this is a responsibility the government must discharge. I have gone this far in suggesting that our House leader would be quite prepared to discuss with the House leader of the New Democratic Party, the eminent counsel—

Mr. Bullbrook: That's not good enough.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —learned in the law, House leader of the third party in this House, the proposed terms of reference.

Mr. Breithaupt: What a nasty thing to say.

Mr. Nixon: The first two engineered the thing in the committee. They should be able to deal with the terms of reference.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have total confidence in his ability to express the point of view of the member for Sarnia, and I think, in terms of the traditional responsibilities of government, I have gone a fair piece.

FOREST FIRES

Mr. Reid: Maybe I can heat this debate up, Mr. Speaker, by asking the Minister of Natural Resources if he can give us a full report on what his ministry is doing in regard to the danger of extreme forest fires in northern Ontario this spring. Can he tell us specifically what steps he has taken, how many extra people will be involved in fire crews and what liaison he has had with the municipalities and their fire-fighting equipment in this regard?

[12:45]

Mr. Conway: He's got Leo flying the skies.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I intend to make a statement tomorrow morning on that.

Mr. Reid: By way of supplementary, if I may, can I ask the minister if he is considering using high school students of perhaps grades 11, 12 and 13, particularly those who have indicated by their year's performance that they will be passing their year, as emergency firefighters in this situation?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, I will make a statement tomorrow.

One thing I can assure the member is that we have \$7 million more allocated to advance fire protection this year so that there will be more people trained, more equipment ready and more people in place than in previous years. The number of people used to fight fires depends upon the actual occurrence, as I am sure the member knows. At that time, I believe we have been quite willing to use people as we could get them to supplement the already trained staff. That certainly wouldn't exclude the young people the member mentioned.

Mr. Foulds: Do I take it that the statement tomorrow morning will include answers to the questions I raised about this matter last Thursday with the member's colleague, the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Brunelle), and in the statement could the minister indicate what contingency plans he has for possible travel bans in the area?

Hon. F. S. Miller: There is no reference to that in the statement at the present moment. I think I adequately answered the question the member raised last week, which prompted me, in fact, to prepare a statement.

LINCOLN PLACE NURSING HOME

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, last week the member for Oakwood asked me if I was aware that since May 1976, staff of my ministry knew of complaints concerning charging practices to residents in Lincoln Place Nursing Home, yet had done nothing about it. Specifically, the member asked if I was aware the senior citizens in Lincoln Place Nursing Home were being charged for services they did not receive. Further, the member asked if I would investigate the situation and ensure the residents of the home were reimbursed.

I have investigated the situation and must thank the member for drawing it to my attention. It appears that through a misunderstanding the matter was not adequately addressed when first discovered by ministry staff in May, 1976. I can assure the member I will do everything possible to see this does not happen again.

A nursing inspector's report has confirmed a \$10 a month charge for marking, mending and ironing of residents' clothes was being applied to all residents, not just those who used the service. The report also indicated a monthly telephone charge of \$2.15 was also being applied to all residents, except for those who had their own phones and those who were bedridden.

I can advise the member that on March 31 a letter was sent to the home to say that effective immediately these general billings to residents must cease, and that all charges to residents must be accompanied by itemized statements. The letter also stated that care must be taken to bill only those residents using these services. Furthermore, the fiscal resources branch of my ministry is today sending people to the home to determine as best we can the extent of any overcharges that may have been made to residents.

I can assure the member that if there have been overcharges to residents, I will insist the residents be reimbursed by the home.

Mr. Grande: Would the minister investigate other private nursing homes to see whether that kind of thing that happened at Lincoln Place is happening also at those homes?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, all homes are regularly inspected by three types of inspectors: Those looking at nursing services, those looking at the physical care—we call them environmental inspectors, if you will—and fiscal. I can check and see if this is in fact the kind of thing that is covered in the inspection. It should be, because it is certainly covered in the regulations, as to what authority nursing homes have for additional charges.

PAN-AM GAMES

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. I am not sure if he is still in the chamber.

Mr. Conway: Send Segal out, it might be interesting.

Mr. Breithaupt: There's the possibility of an answer.

Mr. Mackenzie: To the Premier: The mayor of the city of Hamilton has indicated that the province of Ontario, as approved by the cabinet, has committed better than \$17 million to the Pan-Am Games in Hamilton, based on a cost of some \$50 million to \$55 million. I want to know if this is a firm commitment; I want to know if the province will increase its commitment in the event that the costs for the 1983 project escalate; and I want to know to what extent the province would increase its commitment to the city of Hamilton.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I'm going by memory; I think the mayor of the city in-

licated, and the reports indicate, that the top capital cost would be in the neighbourhood of \$50 million. It was requested that we share on a little different basis than that to which we have, by and large, agreed. The agreement is one-third from the province, one-third from the government of Canada and one-third from the municipality. I'm not sure in what form that one-third will be, that's not within our area of decision.

The mayor of Hamilton was very constructive on the suggestions we made, in terms of having some involvement on the part of this government, and perhaps the government of Canada, to assist in the planning and the development of the necessary physical plant. None of us want to see an escalation take place, but we're talking about a five-year period so one has to build in—and they have the \$50 million figure—the potential for escalation. But I think we're all concerned that it be kept to approximately that amount of money and I am told that there is every likelihood it can be. I think with proper supervision this is possible. The mayor has indicated he would have on the committee representatives, perhaps from this government or people we might appoint; I'm not sure whether this understanding exists with the government of Canada or not.

I would like to think, Mr. Speaker, that our limit is in that neighbourhood. I can't pin it down to, say \$17 million or \$17.5 million, I think it is still too early to determine that, but roughly within that amount of money, that that would be our limit; and I would be optimistic that it can be accomplished for that amount, including, then, the federal and the municipal share.

Mr. Mackenzie: Supplementary: I want to be sure, because this is a matter of some debate in the city of Hamilton right now. My understanding of what you've said is that if we're not able to meet that control requirement—and this is what's concerning the citizens of Hamilton—that this government's commitment is only to \$17 million or \$17.5 million.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I haven't had much experience in these matters, but if one establishes a pretty firm amount—and I'm sure the city will do the same thing; I would be surprised if the government of Canada doesn't do the same—if one has that outside figure, knowing a little bit about physical plant for sporting events, not necessarily as much about what is served at those events from time to time—

Mr. Conway: Ask the Attorney General.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think it can be kept within that measure of control. For instance, on the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, my best recollection, again, is that they are pretty well on target with respect to budget. I see no reason why this can't be accomplished for the Pan-Am Games in Hamilton. So for me to say yes, if it's up 10 per cent we will raise ours by 10 per cent, human nature being what it is that then encourages it; so I'm saying no. We're going to stand firm with our commitment, and if the other two participants do the same my guess is we can build a very adequate plant within that dollar amount.

LAKE ERIE CONTAMINATION

Mr. Mancini: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment: Is the minister aware of the spill that occurred in Lake Erie and was detected last Friday, stretching approximately six miles from Point Pelee to Leamington? Can the minister tell us what was the cause of that spill?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the spill. There is some difficulty in pinpointing exactly what the cause is. There are a number of assumptions. The main one seems to be that it is from some type of commercial vessel and that it may have been laying there for some months; since the ice has moved away from the area it is now obvious and is seen by the people in that area. There was some possibility that the Leamington sewage treatment plant may have been responsible. My officials assure me that is not the cause of the trouble.

Mr. Mancini: Supplementary: I would like to know from the minister if his ministry is involved in the clean-up operation; and is the ministry going to monitor for any environmental effects which might take place from this spill?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are involved with the federal Ministry of Transport. I believe there is also some US involvement here, as well, in the cleanup and retention of that spill; and of course we will be monitoring it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Treasurer has the answer to a question asked previously.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, on April 5 I indicated with respect to a point of order raised by the Leader of the Opposition that I would be tabling a compendium of background information regarding the move of OHIP to Kingston, and the head office of the Ministry of Revenue to Oshawa. I have today filed that with the clerk, together with a three-page covering memo.

ONTARIO MALLEABLE IRON

Mr. Moffatt: I have a question of the Minister of Labour: I would like to ask the minister, given the fact that the employees at Ontario Malleable Iron in Oshawa were locked out for well over a year and the company then ceased operation. Those employees have now been denied unemployment insurance benefits. Is there anything that the Labour ministry can do to aid those employees?

Hon. B. Stephenson: The Ministry of Labour has been involved with investigating the possible solutions to some of the problems which have been raised by this close-down of the plant. At this point of time I unfortunately don't have any very positive answers which I can provide for the member, because that investigation is going on at the present moment.

Mr. Moffatt: Would it be possible that the minister could use her good offices to request special assistance from the Unemployment Insurance Commission to those employees who have, through no fault of their own, been disqualified from receiving benefits because they have not worked, by nature of the lock-out, for the qualifying period?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I think that request has already been made, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, before my question, I know you would like to recognize that today is the birthday of the hon. member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham).

Mr. Conway: It is also the anniversary of the Titanic.

Mr. Speaker: Now the question.

PROVINCIAL CREDIT RATING

Mr. Sargent: A question of the Premier: I would like to ask the Premier—anticipating the answer—if an emergency situation would

arise, does he have enough confidence in our credit rating to immediately go to the bond markets to raise some \$300 million to \$500 million?

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is not April 1, is it? Is he recognizing somebody else's birthday, or what? Do I have confidence in the credit of this province? Yes, I have great confidence in the credit of this province.

Mr. Sargent: In view of the fact that I, along with about eight million other people in Ontario, feel that this government belongs to the people, not to the Conservative Party, and in view of the fact that hundreds of thousands of our people are desperately looking for jobs, I am asking the Premier to provide leadership, to tell us why he can't go to the bond market and get an issue of some \$300 to \$500 million and do a crash programme to provide jobs in this province.

Hon. Mr. Davis: This government is quite concerned about the employment situation in this province. One reason we have developed the credit rating we have—which the hon. member has come to recognize as being significant very recently—I can recall some of his observations about who cares whether we have a triple-A rating or not. Not too many months ago he made light of it—

Mr. Sargent: You haven't changed a bit.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —well, the hon. member has, thank heavens. He has now changed his mind; that it is important. And one reason it is as important as it is because we have handled the affairs of this province, due to some very excellent Treasurers, in a way that has given us this rating.

Mr. Ruston: A deficit for five years.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We are anxious to deal with this problem, but I say with respect, going and borrowing \$500 million at this moment doesn't really appear to be a logical answer to the present situation. And we might not have the credit rating.

Mr. Sweeney: You did it in 1975.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We didn't borrow in 1975.

Mr. Sweeney: Giveaway programmes.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, we didn't.

Mr. Sargent: In view of the fact that we have hundreds of vacant plants in this province and there's a desperate need for hous-

ing, why can't the government do a crash programme on housing in this province to put people to work?

[3:00]

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I'm delighted to have that question. We had a great programme to stimulate housing. We had a great programme to stimulate the automotive industry. Those people opposite pooh-poohed it. Then voted against it. They went around this province—and today is once again like—

Mr. Breithaupt: No new cars were built.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —you know, the great conversion that's taking place. Today they would support that kind of thing. I think it's tremendous.

Mr. S. Smith: It stimulated some voters for you.

Mr. Nixon: You voted \$600 million that election. Money for everybody.

HEALTH CARE COSTS

Mr. Duksza: A question to the Minister of Health: In the context of the latest revelation of waste in hospitals, is the minister aware that one of the large unnecessary costs comes from the common practice in some hospitals in Ontario of routinely x-raying the opposite and unaffected limb where there has been trauma or injury to one limb in a child under the age of 16, whether or not there is a positive indication for the need for such an x-ray? If the minister is aware, what were the costs in 1976, or the current cost if it is known, of this practice to the taxpayer?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware that that procedure is, in fact, carried out in every instance. I don't know if the member is in fact suggesting that it is carried out in every instance. I'll take it as notice and look into it, but it seems to me from what he said, it sounds like a judgemental thing again in a treatment situation.

Mr. Duksza: Supplementary: How frequently does the minister review the standards of practice in technologically intensive medicine, in view of the minister's answer to my question during the last session regarding the cost of medical services, which indicates a growing trend toward channelling taxpayers' funds for technologically intensive medicine? How long has the minister been aware of this and similar practices, and is the minister pre-

pared to reduce the abuse of the cost of technologically intensive medicine?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the member is well aware that there are a number of initiatives under way in the Ministry of Health—be it through local district health councils, be it through study or work under way, for instance, with my fiscal resources branch, with input from the Ontario Hospital Association, whatever it is—and we are constantly trying to find ways to pare unnecessary costs in the health care system.

I'm well aware, though, as a layman, not as a health professional, that in many instances what we're talking about is a judgement by the health professional as to what is necessary in the interests of his patient. Certainly nothing—nothing—that we are doing is intended to put a crimp on the judgement of the professional, but rather to try to, where possible, pinpoint unnecessary expenses and do away with them and to work with the professions.

Mr. Duksza: Final supplementary: I was not speaking as a professional, I was speaking in many respects like a chartered accountant to point out certain costs. Let me ask whether the minister would be prepared to introduce what his sister government in Alberta, a Tory government, has introduced in terms of controlling these costs on a capital cost recovery basis, or does he know what that is?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: It sounds like we're going to exchange "did you know whats."

An hon. member: Do you?

Mr. Duksza: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I haven't seen that specific action out of the province of Alberta. Perhaps I can send the member some information on what's been done in the state of New York.

MARKET VALUE ASSESSMENT

Mr. Peterson: To the Treasurer, Mr. Speaker: Since a complete data base was not compiled before the Blair commission proposals and before the Blair commission started looking at budget paper E, was there in fact a data base developed with a specific impact on various communities, and if there was, is the Treasurer prepared to table that and reveal those specific impact studies to the people of this province?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The studies were prepared on the basis of budget paper E and, of course, all those are now undergoing revision by assessment on the basis of the Blair commission. Consideration will be given to the request made by the member.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary: Is the Treasurer prepared to reveal specifically the impact on each community of the proposals? Is he prepared to make that public, for public discussion, prior to implementing the new system, whenever that will be—and, as a little tiny supplementary, when will that be?

An hon. member: Too late.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I think the statement which we made at the time of the release of the Blair commission indicated that those figures would be made available, yes.

Mr. Good: Supplementary: Does the Treasurer expect anyone to properly study, or get a proper evaluation of, the impact of the market value assessment without a counter-proposal as to what changes there might be in government grant structures that would flow from the changes in taxation on assessments?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, those matters are being worked on at the moment.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That was a final supplementary.

Mr. Peterson: Could the Treasurer tell the Minister of Revenue (Mrs. Scrivener) what is going on?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: It is called studied indifference.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Study yes—indifference no.

UNITED ASBESTOS PLANT

Mr. Bain: In the absence of the Minister of Natural Resources I would like to direct a question to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development. Could he inquire and find out when the Ministry of Natural Resources will be completing an economic and engineering study of the viability of the mine and mill at United Asbestos? This study was discussed at a meeting between the Premier, the leader of the official opposition, the Minister of Natural Resources and myself on March 15.

Could he find out when the report will be completed or, if it has been completed already, when it will be made public and tabled in this House? Could he also indicate to the Minister of Natural Resources that we are all in favour of a private company—everyone in this House is in favour of a private company taking over the mine and mill and reopening it? But what will the minister be prepared to do if this does not materialize?

Mr. S. Smith: Surely not free enterprise.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: He is starting to squirm.

Mr. Reid: Jack Stokes—

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Mr. Bain: Will the government be prepared to make a commitment to the people of Matatchewan and to the people of all of the north that if a private company doesn't purchase the mine and mill within, say, two months, the government will form a joint venture company with the creditors, and reopen the mine?

Hon. Mr. Davis: And you are going to be general manager like Elie is at Inco?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Like the hon. member for Timiskaming, I know we are all very interested in seeing that the mine continues to operate. I understand that a meeting was held very recently with the Minister of Natural Resources. I did not attend that meeting, and I would be pleased to have the minister, or myself, report in the very near future on this important matter.

Mr. Bain: Supplementary: Could the minister also at that time make some indication that if a private company is not willing to open it up within the near future, a commitment will be made on the part of the government that either the government will work with a private company to get it reopened, or the government will form a joint venture company—something on the lines of Texasgulf—and reopen the mine?

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I think that was part of the original question.

BROWNDALÉ

Mr. Eakins: To the Minister of Health: Will the minister tell the House why it has apparently taken so long for his ministry to

approve the Browndale budget for this year? Does this delay have anything to do with the OPP investigation?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I spoke with the director of the children's mental health services branch on this about 10 days to two weeks ago. They are, in fact, proceeding very well in finalizing that budget. Certainly, the investigation by my colleague the Attorney General and by the OPP is still going on; you may have questions about that which you should direct to my colleague.

Mr. Eakins: Supplementary: I just want to ask the minister, is he aware that the lack of decision on his part has caused labour negotiations which have been going on since last year to bog down; and when will he approve the budget so that financial matters can be discussed in these negotiations?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, come on; your leader wants to close them all out.

Mr. S. Smith: The only people suffering now, Bill, are the employees who can't get a contract.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: No, Mr. Speaker, that suggestion has not been made to me but I will bring that up with the director of the branch.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Why don't you people get together?

Mr. S. Smith: John Brown isn't suffering.

INDUSTRIAL WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Minister of the Environment. If I may steal a leaf from the member for Sarnia, I ask this question on behalf of myself and the member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson).

Mr. Bullbrook: Is this about Komoka?

Mr. Lewis: No.

Mr. Bullbrook: Oh, good.

Mr. Lewis: Why has he allowed levels of anxiety to reach such significant proportions in Lambton county among the Federation of Agriculture, the council members and many people in the community, over the possible reopening of an abandoned oil well for the purpose of disposing of millions of gallons of toxic industrial waste, which I gather is currently under negotiation between his ministry and the owner of that well, whose certificate of approval the minister terminated in 1974?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: There is no plan at the present time to renew that certificate. There has been some discussion between a private company, Tricil, which is in the waste disposal business, and the operator of the disposal well in the Lambton area regarding pre-treatment at the Tricil plant with a possibility of disposing of the residue in the Thompson well, for example. The minister, of course, has not indicated any approval to that.

I am not sure what rumours are spreading around the township of Enniskillen or in Lambton—

Mr. Lewis: Wild ones.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I have made it plain to the local member—

Mr. S. Smith: You gave him a good round figure.

Mr. Reid: He is stopping up the well himself.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —that there is no change in the status as far as our ministry is concerned. There has been no application to Mr. Thompson. So nothing is changed as far as we are concerned.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: Is the minister prepared to guarantee that before any change is contemplated—and certainly the community, having seen the correspondence between the minister and the local member, is a little apprehensive; and the minister can understand why if he thinks back to the letter he wrote—is the minister prepared to guarantee that nothing will occur without (a) initial consultation with the community and (b) a hearing under section 33(a) of The Environmental Protection Act?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I would answer yes to both of those questions—

Mr. Lewis: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —but I want to say a little more—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I just happened to re-read that letter, and there is no reason they could have any apprehension or to conclude from that letter that we are going to approve that particular application.

Mr. Lewis: You don't say you won't.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: We are quite emphatic that the township will be advised if there is

any change in the status of that well and that there would be a hearing.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: How can the minister even contemplate putting more toxic wastes into those wells when the figures of his own ministry indicate that some of the existing wells which have been used in this way have been losing pressure over the years, which means there has to have been seepage around the well into surrounding lands and waters? How can he even contemplate doing this again?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The hon. member, of course, is using the same type of scare tactic that he used last fall when this particular problem was a subject of discussion in this House.

Mr. S. Smith: I am scared.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: We have no evidence within our ministry that those existing wells which he is talking about have contaminated ground water.

Mr. S. Smith: They have lost pressure; you know that.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The question is whether or not they have contaminated ground water.

Mr. S. Smith: Where has it gone if it has lost pressure?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: If there is no ground water in the area—in fact, we have dug wells in that particular area to monitor that, so we are satisfied that there is no contamination of ground water.

Mr. S. Smith: Where is it going?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: As far as considering the opening of another well is concerned—

Mr. Lewis: What about Buttermilk Creek?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —as the hon. member knows, there is a great deal of concern about the disposal of industrial liquid waste in this province and it is important to have safe disposal sites. We are concerned about certain clandestine dumping that is going on. Who knows? That may have caused the problem that the hon. member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Burr) asked a question about earlier. We are concerned that we have safe disposal sites. That is why we are looking at every possible disposal area that may be available in the province.

AID TO THE THIRD WORLD

Mr. Good: A question of the Premier regarding provincial aid for developing countries. Since it is now almost a year since his government indicated that no funds would be made available for international development, and since the 40 churches and secular agencies have now given the Premier a critique of the Hilliard report, would he now consider their alternative that a grant be made to the Ontario Council for International Co-operation so that they, in turn, could apportion this grant out to the agencies working in world relief and development?

[3:15]

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I had a very excellent meeting with representatives of the organizations and the churches some few days ago. The presentation was somewhat different from the one that was made a year ago. It did contain some of their thoughts about Mr. Hilliard's report, but it also came forward with, I think, six suggested ideas.

I told the group that made the presentation that the first suggestion it made and the second, I thought, would be acceptable to the government—that would be some great areas of co-operation and communication as between government, the various churches and other organizations. Then they had three alternatives as to how we might participate, if a matter of policy were involved. I did point out to them, and I restate it to the hon. member, that it's not just the money involved, and I made that very clear to them, but it is a matter of principle as to whether or not the provinces should be that directly involved in what is normally, for most countries, a matter for the national or the federal government.

I also indicated to them that we would support a greater involvement by CIDA, not only in terms of amount but in CIDA giving to the independent organizations a greater portion of that budget for allocation in those projects to which they have attached priority. I said to them we would re-evaluate their more recent proposals, and that it would take us, I think I told them two or three weeks—which I think is a fair length of time to see whether or not some policy decision might be entertained.

They did recite to us the policy of one or two provinces. I think Alberta has some involvement in the programme but it does have certain strings attached, I think I'm right in this, in that it relates to either surpluses or

products that are produced within the province of Alberta, and I won't be critical of that.

I did re-emphasize to them, because there is a principle involved here, that it's important, I think in terms of this country and in terms of the effectiveness of these organizations, that to the extent possible it be done on a national basis rather than having necessarily individual provinces involved. We have not closed our mind to it. I sensed they thought it was a constructive meeting—certainly we did—and I did indicate to them we would get back to them in two or three weeks.

Mr. Speaker: The question period has expired.

Petitions.

REPORTS

Mr. Germa from the standing public accounts committee presented the committee's report which was read as follows:

Your committee recommends to the Legislature that a commission be appointed, under The Public Inquiries Act, from the Court of Appeal of the province of Ontario to inquire into and make recommendations upon all matters related to the government's exemption of Ronto Development Corporation from land speculation tax, made by regulation on April 14, 1976.

Your committee further recommends that the terms of reference for this inquiry be placed before the Legislature for approval within 10 days.

Mr. Germa: Mr. Speaker, I got the impression when the government House leader was announcing to the House that he would be setting up a judicial inquiry to look into the Ronto matter that he was aware this motion was going to be presented. Certainly the committee is not disturbed that the government saw fit to take action prior to the report being tabled. I would, however, point out to the government that there were two recommendations contained in the motion which was just presented, and one was that the terms of reference should be brought to this Legislature for consideration before the order in council was issued.

I am a little disturbed. The committee spent some considerable time analysing and determining whether the judicial inquiry route would be successful in accomplishing a resolution to this problem. The committee was of the impression that the quality of the inquiry, of course, will be determined by the

terms of reference as presented to this Legislature. For that, I am a little disillusioned that the government didn't see fit to take into considerations both recommendations.

Mr. Bullbrook: Mr. Speaker, may I speak to the motion?

Mr. Speaker: I think I should put it before the House first of all. Mr. Germa has presented the report and moved its adoption.

Mr. Bullbrook: I attempted before, during the question period, which is all too restrictive, to voice my own personal concern in connection with the terms of reference. Now the history of this: The Premier is absolutely correct in voicing the traditional aspect in matters of this nature. On royal commissions, judicial inquiries, unless under the particular statute, it's totally the prerogative of government, through the Lieutenant Governor in Council, to develop the terms of reference and advise the commissioner, or the inquiry officer, what those terms of reference are.

The background of this—and I want to convey this, if I may, to the Premier through the Speaker—I think personally through correspondence that he and I have had over the last few months, he recognizes, I hope, on my part a total understanding of the function of government, the function of the legislative process, the function of appointed people. So I support, generally, what he says, that the terms of reference should be, to a great extent, the prerogative of the government.

However there is a different situation here. We are in a minority situation. The Premier is the first one to constantly tell the people in Ontario that minority government can work; and it works through one equation only, and that is reciprocal co-operation in this House.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Hear, hear.

Mr. Bullbrook: Hear, hear.

Now what happened was this: There was a motion, as I understand it, for the appointment of a select committee. Many in this party agreed with the motion, that there should be a select committee.

If I might be permitted to just digress for a moment, I totally disassociate myself from the attitude of the government House leader that there is something necessarily unduly partisan in a select committee; quite the contrary. My recent experience with the select committee on company law has been exactly the opposite, it almost reminded me of the

days of the private bills committee. There was nothing partisan about it at all. I believe that the majority of members of this House have attempted, in that context of a minority government, to deal in a fairly non-partisan fashion, and would have attempted to deal in a fairly non-partisan fashion in this matter so important to us all.

Mr. Nixon: Just like they did with the Hydro building. Remember that one?

Mr. Bullbrook: Yes, we tried there.

Mr. Nixon: A select committee was all right then. You had a majority, remember.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Sarnia has the floor.

Mr. Bullbrook: But be that as it may, we've apparently come to a conclusion that all parties will subscribe to the judicial inquiry process. So be it; I, for one, will support that.

But the terms of reference, as slightly elicited from the government House leader, in effect, Mr. Speaker, talk only of the judicial inquiry looking into wrongdoing with respect to that matter. This whole matter of Ronto, that whole exercise of judgement, although it is a governmental and ministerial judgement, in the context of a minority government situation I say to those on this side of the House: Although we don't want to precipitate anything unduly on this matter, let's hope that minority government could work, don't give up our rights with respect to this one, it's too darn important. If we're going to permit them to draft terms of reference solely restricted to the question of wrongdoing, I can tell members right now that we're going to absolutely fetter that inquiry officer. Members are not going to do what they intended to do at the public accounts committee to begin with, and that is to analyse the expenditure of government funds, or unilateral ministerial judgements which are wrong and costing the taxpayers millions of dollars.

I say this to you, Mr. Speaker, the motion just made by the chairman of the public accounts committee is entirely appropriate when he talks about 10 days for us to have the terms of reference, and we should be able to debate those terms of reference in this assembly. I say this to you, sir, in closing, as much as we admire the personal integrity and ability of the various House leaders of the parties, that's not good enough. It can't

be good enough. It doesn't in any way demean their collective activity, or what they do for all of us. We each have a right, nay a duty, to be able to get up on our feet here and discuss those terms of reference. I for one attempted, as vigorously as I could to point out to all members of the House that although it is traditionally the function of government, of their own initiative, and unilaterally without consultation, to go ahead and make appointments and to structure the appointments and develop the terms of reference, if we're going to make this minority government work—because it can work—then let's have the legislative process involved in that.

It's not asking too much of the Premier to do that, because the Premier, in response to the various points of order by my colleague from Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, did say "vote against it"; twice he said "vote against it." This is the question I'm putting: How is he going to vote against it? How do we vote against the terms of reference that he has developed himself?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Through a motion.

Mr. Bullbrook: Is this what he is talking about? This motion today?

Mr. Nixon: This motion has the terms in it?

Mr. Bullbrook: This motion has no terms in it; and that's the problem that I, as one member, face.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You weren't even there for any of the discussions in the public accounts committee.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Sarnia has the floor.

Mr. Bullbrook: I am not a member of the public accounts committee; and I'm not voicing my concern in the context of being a member or otherwise of the public accounts committee. I'm trying to point out that voting against or for this motion doesn't answer the very question that burdens me.

Mr. Nixon: That's right.

Mr. Bullbrook: Nobody knows the terms of reference.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, at the time we considered whether or not a public inquiry would be a suitable method of dealing with the Ronto affair, we in the NDP caucus gave a great deal of consideration as to whether or not it would be better suited to be dealt

with in a standing committee of the Legislature or a select committee of the Legislature. We decided that it was appropriate that it should go to a public inquiry. We decided that on the basis of a feeling that those doing the inquiring would only be able to come to satisfactory conclusions if the terms of reference were suitable.

In the matter of Ronto, the matter of the government's decision to exempt Ronto from the payment of tax has been before the Legislature for some long period of time. The standing committee on public accounts had it before them for a long period of time, and it really now is a matter before the Legislature and not just simply a matter before the government. While I would always be happy to sit down with the other House leaders and chat about the terms of reference, I feel much like the member for Sarnia who just stated that, "I wouldn't want to take upon myself the responsibility for determining whether or not the terms of reference put forward by the government were suitable in terms of dealing with the entire matter of the exemption granted."

To begin with, it isn't a matter of looking into whether there was wrongdoing or not. It's a matter of trying to determine whether or not all of the information necessary was available, and the terms of reference have to make it clear that that is the purpose of the inquiry. The terms of reference also have to make it clear that it's not simply a matter of determining whether the amounts of money which may well have been paid had the tax been applied ought now to be paid, but whether there were other moneys paid to other persons, or groups of individuals, which may or may not have influenced the decision of government.

I don't know how the government intends to draw its terms of reference. I recognize, as one speaks of it, the traditional right of the government to govern, and I don't very often make any inroads into that traditional right, but I do frankly feel that if the terms of reference are drawn sufficiently broadly to allow the commissioner to look into all matters related, and if the terms of reference in specific draw his or her attention to matters which are of particular attention and to which specific attention must be paid, then of course the terms of reference could receive the concurrence of the House and the inquiry would serve the purpose which we all intend it to serve.

[3:30]

I worry, now, about the possibility of the terms being drawn restrictively, even inadvertently; and I don't quite understand why we couldn't have had those terms of reference laid before the Legislature in order that the members, who are now all involved, could have had the opportunity to review those and to make some recommendation to the government, which could, if it wished, have chosen to ignore them. If the government felt and could argue sufficiently strongly that the suggested changes were in some way or another reducing the function and capacity of either the government or the public inquiry, then that argument would have stood up under public scrutiny and the public would have supported the government's position.

I feel that we are getting into a hornet's nest over very little and that it would have been much better if the government had simply accepted the fact that it was being asked by the public accounts committee, in a unanimous decision supported by all parties, that the terms of reference be placed before the Legislature before such time as the appointment of the commissioner, that it concur with that and agree that that is a reasonable thing to do in the circumstances, given the amount of legislative debate that has already taken place around the issue, and trust to the Legislature, as it has to in all other matters, to make a reasonable judgement about what constitutes sensible terms of reference.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, I may say to the Premier that his bedmate in this situation, the official opposition, in presenting it to the committee this morning, made it conditional that they would vote for this on the fact that we would have a say in the terms of reference. It was fully understood—that was our vote—that the public accounts committee would have a say in the terms of reference and other things such as the framework and guidelines of the inquiry. It was modified from the select committee, for reasons I won't get into here now, but the facts are that that was the condition of the vote this morning. I think the House leader beat the gun bringing that in before the chairman (Mr. Germa) brought his motion in, but that was our understanding this morning and all parties voted for that.

I may be wrong, I don't know, but I know that we thought at that time that everything was conditional on us having a say on the terms of reference. If that is not the case, I think we should very seriously study what we are talking about.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address myself to this question very briefly. I am not a member of the public accounts committee and my knowledge, except for one or two occasions, is based entirely on the discussions I have had with my colleagues from the New Democratic Party caucus who sat on that committee. I have, however, been closely associated with the member for Brantford (Mr. Makarchuk) since he first raised this matter in August of last year about the propriety of the exemption which was granted, and I would say to the Premier and I would say to the House leader that the question was not in anything but a very minor and secondary way the question of undue influence or impropriety or anything related to that.

Mr. Nixon: That's exactly right.

Mr. Renwick: The basic question and the fundamental question which was raised—

Mr. Nixon: Was whether you should exempt them.

Mr. Renwick: —by the Ronto matter was, and may I try to phrase this in an effort to be helpful to solve the dilemma which has been presented to the House by the failure to have a proper debate about it, the key question which was raised throughout the whole of the discussion of Ronto, both in this House and in the public accounts committee, would in my judgement run something like this: Would the then minister, properly advised and fully informed, have granted the exemption which he did? It would appear to me that that is the primary question; and if I understood what the House leader for the government was saying today, the terms of reference as indicated in the statement he made would not have covered that question. From that question, and very much as a secondary one, might very well flow the question as to whether or not there was any undue influence or impropriety or favouritism or whatever you wish to call that, but that is very much a far distant secondary question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, so there is no misunderstanding, the House leader did not read the terms of reference to the House. He said, very simply, that there would be a judicial inquiry, that it would include, amongst other things—I haven't even read his statement. What I was saying in reply to the hon. member for Brantford was that we would have terms of reference. My experience has always been that these terms of reference are sufficiently

broad to accommodate the interest of the public, which I assume is the interest of the members of this House.

I don't want to prolong this debate, and there are some things I could say in almost a partisan sense—

Mr. Deans: Well, don't.

Hon. Mr. Davis: What I understand the House leader for the New Democratic Party is saying is—and I ask for clarification—that he would like an opportunity—

Mr. MacDonald: Enter the debate.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'm just asking for a little information that might—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Premier rose on a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: All right, I'll ask the question after. I'll let the member for Riverdale put it. But I just want to make it clear the government has not set out the terms of reference. I don't want any misunderstanding.

Mr. Renwick: I do appreciate the opportunity to conclude my remarks, with the leave of the Premier. I did not intend to say that the House leader for the government specified, specifically, the terms of reference of the committee; but he did indicate the general framework, in which his thinking was directed, about those terms of reference. In the statement which he made, he did not address his attention to what I believe to be the key question. I say to the Premier and to the House leader of the government, is it not acceptable that, whatever the actual language may turn out to be, something in the nature of the statement which I have made is the question which should be asked of the royal commission? Namely, would the then minister, properly advised and fully informed, have granted the exemption he did?

Mr. Lewis: Do you object to that as part of the inquiry?

Mr. Nixon: The House leader for the Liberal Party made an excellent suggestion, I believe, which he hasn't been able to act upon. He indicated that one way to proceed in this matter would be for this debate to adjourn and be left adjourned until such time as the terms of reference are placed before us. Then we could resume the debate and there might then possibly be an occasion to express approval or disapproval of the terms. I thought that suggestion was a good one.

On the other hand, the debate has proceeded and I believe it is an important one—I, certainly, believe it is. With your permission, sir, I would like to contribute my views.

Mr. Ferrier: He doesn't want to be up-staged.

Mr. Nixon: I do believe that an important point has been made in that the reference to the public accounts committee was not to find out what Eddie Goodman was doing in all this business, but specifically for the public accounts committee to review the decision to exempt Ronto from the payment of the tax. One of the very significant resolutions that was before the committee for a long time, and might very well have been acted upon, was to recommend that the House instruct the government to remove that exemption; in other words, to collect the tax. I was a member of the committee—at least for one of its meetings—and we were looking at the matter not as a great political scandal—although, in fact, it might be—but as a matter of accounting for public funds, and that exemption in particular. Certainly on that basis I felt, and still feel—although I have no particular objection to the royal commission—that it was a matter for the public accounts committee; and when it became too burdensome and elaborate for the public accounts committee—obviously demanding the presence of proper counsel and other assistance for the committee—I felt that a select committee should be empowered to continue the investigation on that line.

Personally, I felt that if the results of the investigation were similar to the information already provided to us by the auditor, then the resolution calling on this House to instruct the government—if such a motion is in order—to go out and collect \$500,000 or \$2 million, would have been a proper result rather than some other approach.

My own feeling is that a royal commission is used under these circumstances when there is a cloud over the reputation of an individual or where there is some indication of malfeasance. Surely, in this instance, it is the judgement of the government in granting the exemption. Certainly if you're going to have a full review of the situation there are other collateral matters, to which the member for Brantford has already referred, such as the payment of commissions, and the additional exemptions to a former member of the racing commission. It makes a very interesting tale indeed and surely the royal commissioner will have to go into that. I think our prime interest is the fact that the government has exempted Ronto from the payment of \$500,000 in tax.

We even feel it should be \$2 million in tax, and that that is why it was referred to the standing committee and why the standing committee moved to have it referred to a select committee.

The suggestion by the House leader for the Liberal Party that there be an adjournment of this debate until we have a look at the terms of reference is a good one. I might also say I don't think there have been many occasions in the past where it was felt that the terms of reference of royal commissions were unduly restrictive. I do recall one occasion when some complaint was expressed in the House following the establishment of the terms and the government of the day was good enough to amend and expand the terms themselves. Surely that is their prerogative and a procedure which precedent has already seen established. I hope members of the House will have a chance to express their views on the terms of reference by their debate and by their vote, and I think there is a quite clear and easily understood procedure whereby that might come about.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, as the seconder of the motion that is before the House at the moment—

Mr. Nixon: You are the man who took the message to the committee.

Mr. Drea: I want to draw your attention to one very basic fact: There were no conditions in that motion. The mover of the motion this morning very courteously supplied me with a written copy of the resolution. There were some people—some members, I may say, of that committee, but not of my party and not of the official opposition party—who seemed mystified as to what the rules of the House were. They asked for certain information. Certain information was supplied to them by a member of the committee—not of my party—on a voluntary basis. If, on that basis, the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) was so confused that he thought there were conditions in a written motion, then Mr. Speaker I say to you when we get into a debate, that that motion contains six or seven lines and it is very clear and it very concise.

The particular time designation in there is of 10 days. It was my understanding that because of the difficulties of the committee in coming to grips with the finality of the situation—not the merits of it but the finality of it—that the 10 days was a period of time during which the government would have to take a position on the matter. As a matter of fact, if the tapes were to be replayed from

this morning, there is a very clear indication that if the government did not take a position on this particular motion, the committee might very well have to try to suggest another vehicle, or indeed go back to the select committee route. That is the impact of the last two lines of the resolution, that the terms of reference—in other words—there would be a commissioner—would be placed before the Legislature within 10 days.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, had I interpreted those last two lines as a committee directing the government on what it was going to do, I would not have seconded it.

Mr. Conway: Are you changing your mind?

Mr. Drea: The intent of the motion that has been brought before the House this afternoon and which was passed unanimously—even though there were three members who were mystified, confused or what have you, in the end they came around—was to bring to finality—

Mr. Nixon: They are not used to the Tories and the NDP being in bed together. One of you has cold feet.

Mr. Drea: —the question of the tax exemption to Ronto. This was considered to be the most expedient, the most fair and the most efficient vehicle to bring about finality one way or the other. That is all it was.

[3:45]

Mr. Sargent: Point of order, point of order.

Mr. Drea: For those who say that they were confused and there were conditions, I am prepared to have the tapes played back, because there was no confusion and there were no conditions.

Mr. Nixon: It has nothing to do with the royal commission anyway.

Mr. Sargent: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. The member makes reference to “three members who were confused.”

Mr. Conway: Burn the tapes, Frank.

An hon. member: It is you, Eddie.

An hon. member: Frank Drea, Frank Drea and Frank Drea.

Mr. Sargent: The three members who were “confused,” as he says, were not in bed with the government. The Liberal Party goes straight down the line and we were not party to the NDP and the government making a deal.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member does not have a point of order. The hon. member for Scarborough Centre will continue.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That just adds to your confusion, Eddie.

Mr. Sargent: A deal has been made and we were not party to the deal they wanted to make.

An hon. member: You will be, next time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I was not going to continue on—

An hon. member: Please don't.

Mr. Drea: —but I want to decry this mention of “a deal was made.” Let's put it on the record.

Mr. Conway: You don't look like Monty Hall.

Mr. Drea: The first time that I knew anything about the motion that the member for Wentworth North was making was when he had the courtesy this morning, just about a minute before public accounts started, to send me a typed photo copy of it. I had never seen it before, and indeed, I suppose if he had asked for my comments on it, I would have said I thought it was a first-class idea, but he did not. I seconded the motion purely on its merits, I am getting a little bit sick and tired—

Mr. Sargent: We know you are sick all right.

Mr. Drea: —that every time there is a motion of any bipartisan nature in this House, there is some redneck who gets up and says a deal was made. There was no deal made.

Mr. Lewis: When the chips are down in this House it won't be this party that will stand up and support you—when the crunch comes next week.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, the discussions which have been held by the House leaders during the end portion of the question period concerning this matter have come, I think, to the conclusion that the terms of reference to which the report makes mention can be made available to all members of the House within a comparatively short time. The Premier, in his exchange today with various members asking questions on this subject, has

suggested that those terms of reference may be available as early as tomorrow. If such is the case, we will then have the opportunity to review those terms of reference, which may prove to be acceptable or may require some additional encouragement. I suggest that once those terms of reference are known, there will be an opportunity for us then to return to this debate, should that be necessary. We can then resolve the matter, since we are talking now in the absence of knowing what those terms will be.

MOTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that section (h) of clause 37 in the provisional standing orders as approved by the House on December 16, 1976, be amended by deleting the section and substituting the following:

"(h) No question will be put to the House before 5:50 p.m. The votes on all items not opposed at 5:50 p.m. shall be stacked and put forthwith. If a division is requested by five members, there will be a five-minute division bell, following which all questions will be put forthwith."

Hon. Mr. Welch also moved that section (j) of clause 37 in the provisional standing orders as approved by the House on December 16, 1976, be amended by adding the following:

"and that all bills intended for debate be introduced at latest on the Tuesday of the second week previous to the week in which such bill is to be debated, and that notice of a motion intended to be debated be printed on the Tuesday of the second week previous to the week in which such motion is to be debated."

Motions agreed to.

ESSEX COUNTY FRENCH-LANGUAGE SECONDARY SCHOOL ACT

Hon. Mr. Wells moved first reading of Bill 31, An Act to require the Essex County Board of Education to provide a French-language secondary school.

Motion agreed to.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Stong moved first reading of Bill 32, An Act to amend The Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, this bill defines hospital pharmacists and establishes a bargaining unit of hospital pharmacists as an appropriate unit for collective bargaining.

PATIENTS' RIGHTS ACT

Mr. Duksza moved first reading of Bill 33, An Act respecting certain Rights of Patients receiving Health Care Services in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Duksza: The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to declare and protect certain rights of medical patients in Ontario. The bill is divided into three parts.

Part I of the bill is designed to protect the confidentiality of a patient's medical record. The bill declares a general prohibition against disclosure of a medical record, but allows for some exceptions to ensure proper treatment and care of the patient. The patient also has a right to access to his own medical record. A person who violates these provisions may be found guilty of professional misconduct in a disciplinary proceeding.

Part II of the bill is designed to ensure that a patient is provided with adequate information about the proposed form of treatment before giving written consent to the treatment. This information must be provided to the patient in order for consent to be considered as informed consent. When enacted, this part will amend the existing procedure for providing written consent established by regulation under The Public Hospitals Act. It would also affect any other procedure where written consent is required.

Part III of the bill is designed to protect persons who are admitted to a psychiatric facility as involuntary patients under The Mental Health Act. This part amends that Act by creating additional review procedures to protect a person from being detained unnecessarily as an involuntary patient. In addition, the duration of a certificate of renewal is reduced to ensure that the patient is examined on a frequent and regular basis by an independent physician while he is detained as an involuntary patient.

Mr. Speaker: May I just suggest, and point out to the hon. member, that the explanation is supposed to be brief, explaining the principle; not filling or flushing it out too much. His explanation was slightly long.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Stokes: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. The motion that was just introduced amend-

ing standing orders would preclude the hon. member for Parkdale introducing that motion for debate two weeks from today. I think it is patently unfair.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I agree. It was quite clearly understood as a preparation for this—and the clerk at the table perhaps hasn't been clear on this—that we were making an exception as far as the hon. member was concerned. It was because of the confusion with respect to the interpretation that that amendment was put in; it was not to cover this particular one but subsequently.

Mr. Stokes: But my point of order, Mr. Speaker, is that it be made abundantly clear to all members of the House that that amendment to the standing order will prevail with the exception of this motion which precipitated the whole thing.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I appreciate that clarification and this opportunity; I thought I had made that point clear earlier.

PROCEDURE FOR PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

Mr. Speaker: Before calling the orders of the day, it has been suggested that before the first private members' period under the provisional rules, I should outline as clearly as possible what I understand to be the consensus of the House respecting the procedure to be followed.

My understanding is this: When the routine proceedings have been completed, the orders of the day are of course the two prescribed items of public business. The time from the commencement of such proceedings until 5:50 p.m. will be divided equally between the two orders. When debate on the first order has concluded, the Speaker will immediately call the second order for debate. When debate on both orders has been concluded, if no petition adverse to a vote has been filed in accordance with provisional order 37(f), the Speaker will put a question on the first order as follows:

"Shall there be a vote on this motion? Any members opposed to a vote must now rise."

If 20 members rise, a vote is of course blocked. But if any less than 20 members stand, a vote will be ordered and stacked. The same procedure will then be followed with respect to the second order of the day. If votes on both the orders are blocked that, of course, ends the proceedings.

If, however, a vote is ordered with respect to either one or both of the orders, the Speaker will proceed in the usual way to call for the voice vote, the ayes and nays, and give his opinion as to whether the ayes or nays have it. If that opinion is accepted, the vote is so recorded.

If, however, five members stand in their places in the usual way to call for a recorded vote in either one or both cases, there will be a five-minute division bell after which the recorded vote or votes will be taken.

The time allotment for each member speaking will remain as heretofore with this exception: The mover may, if he wishes, reserve any part of his 20 minutes for a reply at the end of the debate. He must, however, advise the Speaker beforehand of his intention to do so and as to how many minutes he is so reserving.

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch: Just before the orders of the day are called, I wish to table the answers to questions 1, 3, 4, 5, 16, 17 and 19 and the interim answers to questions 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18 and 20 on the order paper. (See appendix, page 442.)

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS NATURAL DEATH ACT

Mr. Maeck moved second reading of Bill 3, An Act respecting the Withholding or Withdrawal of Treatment where Death is Inevitable.

Mr. Speaker: I will announce very shortly exactly when half-time is up for this particular order.

Mr. Moffatt: And then change ends?

Mr. Maeck: By luck of the ballot, Mr. Speaker, I have been chosen to present the first private member's bill under the new rules passed by this House last December 16. These rules, as hon. members are aware, allow greater opportunity for private bills to become law in this province.

I am well aware of the honour falling to the member to present the first bill, but I am also mindful of the importance of the situation. Accordingly, I have chosen to bring forward for consideration a bill based on humanitarian principles which should commend themselves to all members.

If this bill is passed into law, it will not have widespread or general application; however, it will have great significance for many citizens in a time of anguish. I believe that a bill which has as its aim the alleviation of suffering is always worthy of favourable consideration.

[4:00]

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by outlining the principles which lie behind the bill and which motivated me to bring it forward. Let me also attempt to make clear both what the bill intends to achieve and what it does not intend to achieve.

Some time ago it came to my attention that medical technology had advanced to the point where it is possible to keep a human being alive by artificial means when one or a number of that human's vital functions have been irreversibly damaged by accident or disease. It is possible to prolong a patient's life beyond the point where he or she would die naturally, but with no hope that the patient could ever recover.

In some instances the prolongation of life by artificial means gives added pain to the patient. But in all instances, however, it means added pain, anguish and concern for the patient's family, attending medical personnel and the clergy. I must point out that I am not talking of a very large number of cases. Informed estimates conclude that fewer than two per cent of hospitalized patients reach the stage where artificial prolongation of life is a consideration. But for that two per cent, and for those concerned with their treatment, it is a serious problem. It occurred to me that a mechanism could be devised to allow the alleviation of suffering for all concerned when death is close and inevitable.

In this regard, Mr. Speaker, I noted with interest the passage of a natural death Act in the state of California, and saw that with certain modifications such legislation could be enacted here. Through the courtesy of the Attorney General of California I obtained a copy of their legislation, along with a fairly complete file of the arguments heard during its passage. It is important to note that the California legislation took over two years of drafting and amendments before it was signed into law by Governor Brown.

There are, of course, differences between the legal and legislative powers of California and Ontario. What I am presenting in this bill, however, are the best features of the California Act combined with what expert counsel indicated appropriate for Ontario. In other words, the ground for such legisla-

tion has been broken and many of the arguments regarding theology, morality, ethics and humanitarianism have already been heard.

By this I do not intend to say that there should be little or no debate on the bill. On the contrary, it is my expressed intention to direct this bill to the standing committee on social development should it receive second reading today. It would be my hope that that committee would hold extensive and comprehensive hearings on both the principles behind the bill and its specific provisions.

I would like to have all interested groups and members of the public make their views known on this legislation. We all have the right to consent or refuse to consent to medical treatment today. What this bill intends is that while patients would normally consent to such treatment when there is hope of recovery, they might wish to limit that consent when artificial means are contemplated to keep them alive beyond their time of natural death. That is to say that this anticipates those instances where artificial means serve only to prolong a death watch instead of leading to recovered health. What this bill seeks is to allow a patient to meet his inevitable death with dignity and a degree of comfort.

There are three principles which underlie this proposed legislation. The first is that the individual should have the right to decide whether he or she is going to die a natural death where the possibility exists. I cannot stress enough that Bill 3 falls into the category of permissive legislation. No one would be compelled to limit his consent to have his life prolonged or sustained by artificial means. The proposed legislation would allow only those who wish to do so to indicate their desires on this question.

The working of the bill is such that only those who have reached the age of majority, who are in full control of their faculties and who are not under pressure from any source, can execute a directive for the guidance of their physician. It was my original intention that sane and healthy individuals could execute their directives before fatal illness or accident befell them. I anticipated citizens filling out directives in much the same manner as we fill out, or do not fill out, whatever the case may be, the consent forms on our driver's licence under The Human Tissue Gift Act.

It is possible, however, that patients might wish to execute a directive at or near the

time they are diagnosed as terminally ill. So, provision has been made for both categories: sane and healthy, or sane and terminally ill. It is my hope that individuals who wish to, would fill out the directive when they're healthy. In this connection, hon. members will observe that there is provision for prompt and effective revocation of the directive should the patient change his mind. As well, legal directives will remain in effect for only five years.

Arising from the first principle is that responsibility for an agonizing decision will not fall on grieving members of the patient's family. If a directive has been executed by the patient, family members will be relieved of a terrible burden at a time when they are already distraught. Attending members of the clergy are often troubled as well by the plight of the patient and the family. They, too, will be relieved if a directive has been executed beforehand.

The third benefit to arise from granting the individual right to limit heroic treatment is that medical personnel will be spared the responsibility of deciding to limit treatment. There will be no question of liability for any act done or omission made in good faith under the provisions of this bill. Attending physicians will simply be following the clear wishes of their patients when there is nothing to be done to restore life processes. It should be noted as well that in cases where terminally ill patients have not or cannot execute a directive the physician will carry out his responsibilities as he always has.

In sum, the intent of Bill 3 is to allow individuals to take it upon themselves to spare their families, clergy and medical attendants the agony of deciding whether to prolong suffering when death is inevitable.

Having stated the intention of the bill, let me go on to indicate what the bill does not intend. Here I want to be very specific, Mr. Speaker, because some questions have been raised despite the fact that the humanitarian objectives of the legislation are quite clear.

In the first place, the bill does not in any way make provision for euthanasia or mercy killing. It deals only with the circumstances surrounding a death that would occur in any event. Criminal activity which results in the taking of a life is dealt with under The Criminal Code of Canada and is a federal responsibility. Nonetheless, I stress as strongly as I can the fact that the specific provisions of Bill 3 do not allow the taking of a life. They deal with a death that would take

place naturally and inevitably. Death is not to be hastened in any way.

Similarly, any death occurring naturally under the provisions of this bill cannot be considered a suicide, and such is specifically stated in the bill. Let me explain the safeguards that have been written into the bill. Anyone signing the directive must do so in the presence of two witnesses who cannot stand to benefit in any way from the death of the individual. Secondly, the existence of an irreversible and terminal condition must be diagnosed by two physicians who are not responsible for the care of the patient in question. In the case where two independent physicians cannot agree that a condition is terminal, the directive will not take effect.

Another safeguard has been drafted to guard against the taking of an innocent life. Provision has been made to nullify the effect of a directive when the patient in question is female and expecting a child.

What I have been endeavouring to explain are the basic humanitarian concerns which motivated me to bring this bill forward.

To repeat them once again, the aims of the legislation are: One, to allow an adult in clear control of his faculties to decide that his inevitable death will take place with as much dignity as possible; and two, that by allowing an individual to choose not to have his moment of death postponed by artificial means, he and he alone will absolve his family, clergy and physicians from having to make an agonizing decision.

This bill, I believe, has been drafted in such a way as to prevent any consideration of the taking of life. As a former police officer and member of our armed forces, I know only too well the awful reality of someone causing another to lose his life. What I am concerned with are those rare occasions when, by virtue of accident or disease, an individual's death is certain and imminent as certified by the diagnosis of two qualified physicians. The situations I am talking about are those in which an individual might be kept clinically alive by artificial means for some period of time but who would have no hope of recovery.

May I now turn to some of the practical aspects of the bill? As various members are aware, I have canvassed a wide sector of religious, medical and community leaders concerning the principle of the proposed legislation. The response has been extremely positive, especially from those who have had to deal with terminal patients on a regular basis. It should be of interest to hon. mem-

bers that what is proposed in this bill parallels much of what is already in practice.

The code of ethics of the Ontario Medical Association, for instance, has two clauses which bear on this matter, and they read as follows: "An ethical physician will allow death to occur with dignity and comfort when death of the body appears to be inevitable." The second says: "An ethical physician may support the body when clinical death of the brain has occurred but need not prolong life by unusual or heroic means."

The Ontario Medical Association is on record in supporting this code of ethics, so these statements are statements of the association's policy. I know the OMA is in support of the principle of my bill and I look forward to hearing from its representatives should the bill get to the committee stage.

As I indicated, the mail and telephone calls I've received since it became known that I would be presenting this bill have been very positive. Well over 80 per cent of those who have communicated with me have indicated their support and many of the letters which indicated opposition to it were, I believe, based on a misunderstanding of the specific provisions as safeguards of the bill. This is understandable because they didn't have an opportunity to see the actual wording of the bill until it was introduced and printed.

It is my sincere belief that virtually all original opponents of the bill can rest more easily now that the provisions and safeguards have been spelled out. Yet it would appear that the primary concern of those who indicated opposition to this bill was that it would promote euthanasia. As I hope I have made clear, it does not.

The taking of a life is a crime under The Criminal Code and the provisions of the bill do not alter that in any way. This bill deals with natural death, not unnatural death. Here I should also point out that I have specifically and deliberately left out any provision for delegation of authority for executing a directive. It is to be made by the individual and no one else. This is to further ensure that only the wishes of the patient will be recognized.

Another concern that has been expressed comes from doctors who wonder what will happen to patients who do not sign a directive. Section 6 of the bill clearly states that physicians will carry on in their normal manner. The provisions of the bill will apply only to those who sign a directive.

In conclusion, I would like to share with the hon. members an example of what this bill is all about. Some time ago, I appeared

on a radio show on London's Station CFPL to talk about this particular bill. I wasn't able to hear all the telephone calls that came in but the station's programme manager wrote to tell me about them. In part he wrote:

"I think you would have been moved had you heard the call I received just before the programme signed off. A middle-aged man called to tell me he is a terminal cancer patient whose prognosis is very bleak. He said that not a day goes by that he does not pray for death to come swiftly since he suffers even with the administration of drugs. He supports very much your idea. His very moving conversation, I thought, showed us a side of the great moral question here that most of us cannot see clearly from our vantage point of good health."

It should be readily apparent that the provisions of this bill, if enacted cannot help this man at this time. No one has been able to shorten his life by any means, but once his death was imminent he could be allowed to die a natural death without prolonged suffering.

I have received many letters expressing equally moving and genuine sentiments. It is my hope, if this bill progresses through the legislative process to become law, it will serve to assist those citizens who are afflicted and distraught or who may become afflicted and distraught. The aim of this bill is to bring a measure of comfort in the face of awful reality.

I would like to conclude by asking support for this bill on second reading in order that the aims and objectives of it can be studied by the standing committee on social development. There may be amendments required to give full and fair meaning to the humanitarian objectives of this bill. There may be amendments required to give further protection against abuse. In any event, I strongly believe in the goodwill the bill has elicited and I look forward to hearing from hon. members who will take part in the debate.

I understand that whatever time remains to me under my time allocation can be used in order to answer questions or make corrections or clarifications. I would be happy to use that time for these purposes.

[4:15]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Parkdale for up to 10 minutes.

Mr. Duszta: How many minutes, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No more than 10 minutes.

Mr. Duksza: Fine. I actually will do it in seven and a half. It is exciting to participate in a debate in the best parliamentary tradition when a bill can be debated freely, voted upon I hope as freely, and in response only to the dictates of one's own reason and conscience. It is also felicitous that Mr. Maeck's bill presents us with a moral conundrum. I have talked about the bill with church fathers. I have read on the Quinlan case. I have consulted with my good friend, the member for Downsview (Mr. di Santo), about the implication of Mr. Maeck's bill in the context of class analysis, but ultimately I have come to the realization that the bill affects me primarily in two ways—first, as a physician, and second, as a human being.

First, as a physician, I play a specific role in society, a role which carries certain responsibilities, power and some privileges. Second, as a person, I can identify myself with a situation described by this bill. I can see myself with a terminal condition, incurably ill, knowing that I am facing death and possibly having to make a decision whether to live or die. These two roles, however—me as a physician and me as an ordinary human being—carry different role prescriptions which are in some sense contradictory.

The contradiction in my two roles is quite simple. As a person, I believe the decision whether I live or die is my own. I do not mean this in the more general context of our daily living, for clearly everything I hope for and do hinges on other people—whether it is my work relationship or pleasure. Yet when it comes to the moment when I am incurably ill and with no hope of living and totally alone, or when I come to a point when no longer do I find life tolerable or meaningful, then I reserve to myself the right to make the decision to die.

The logical and often intolerable contradiction between this existential position and my role as a physician and psychiatrist comes when I am faced with a patient who I know is dying, who I know I cannot help by any known means, and who I know is aware of this and wants to die. Yet I will then proceed to institute heroic efforts to prolong life, give painful treatments, and start massive and uncomfortable life support systems, knowing full well these efforts will be useless, for I have unhesitatingly followed the prescription of my role as a physician. The physician is entrusted, and rightly so, with the responsibility for saving life, for prolonging

the life of the patient to the best of his ability and power.

More often than not the patient would be glad that all efforts were being made to help him or her, and they would fool themselves that such heroic efforts were going to be successful. This I consider to be my proper responsibility and work, and I was happy to be of this minimal use. Yet on many occasions, a more aware individual would say to me: "Why are you doing this? You know I am dying. Let me die in peace."

I wouldn't and I couldn't listen to such statements. I am compelled as a physician to do my utmost. I would do everything in my power, I repeat, even if I knew my patient didn't want these heroic measures instituted on his behalf, for I refused and I still refuse to take this decision on my own shoulders. Fear of legal repercussions and civil suits for negligence is only a part of it. The core of my decision to institute these needless and hopeless treatments is my total refusal to accept the responsibility for ending that life, even if it is only by omission.

It is not my decision. I don't want that power and I shall never accept it. It is the individual's decision and if the individual is fully aware of the facts of his incurable position and makes a decision, then I can go along with it, applaud his or her spirit of fortitude and simple human dignity, and hope the same for myself.

As a psychiatrist, I have to deal with individuals who are suicidal. The ethics of the profession and the law are quite clear on this. Anyone who decides to kill himself or herself is at best of unsound mind and the responsibility of the psychiatrist is quite clear: The psychiatrist must prevent it.

Let me give you an example. A friend tells me that he has made a decision to kill himself. "I don't want to go on living," my friend says. "I am not depressed. I have just had it." My responsibility here is again quite clear. I have to make a decision as to whether or not my friend means it, and if he means it, I have to fill in Form I under The Mental Health Act which specifies that a person who is dangerous to himself or herself must be protected. One may say that if my friend really wanted to kill himself, he shouldn't have told me, but it doesn't change the fact that at the moment he tells me, I have to act whether he likes it or not.

Human attitudes towards the right to die vary from society to society. Let me quote from the Roman historian Tacitus, from his *Annals of Imperial Rome*: "At Rome"—

this was following the failure of a conspiracy—"the massacre was continuous. Pomponius Labeo, whose imperial governorship of Moesia I have mentioned, opened his veins and bled to death, followed by his wife. Such deaths were readily resorted to. They were due to fears of execution, and because people sentenced to death forfeited their property and were forbidden burial, whereas suicides were rewarded for this acceleration by burial, and recognition of their wills."

Even in western society, attitudes to suicide and death vary and are ambiguous. Although the church has always disapproved there was a tacit societal approval, expressed, for example, by an officer disgraced, or facing disgrace, who killed himself rather than subject his regiment to the spectacle of a trial and public opprobrium.

I remember my father talking of an acquaintance of his, an officer who took regimental funds, who killed himself before he could be arrested. "He took the nobleman's way out," my father said. But honour was so bound up with rank that in effect to kill oneself was a privilege reserved only for people of rank.

Mr. Maack's bill is consciously quite limited, but the conceptual thrust of his bill is embedded in the wider context of our societal attitude to death, whether "natural" or by one's own hand. I do not, therefore, think I have strayed far from discussing this wider context, and I have quoted extensively—not as extensively now as the last time—from Tacitus because those passages illuminated for me how our attitude to death is a reflection only of our society and not of immutable truths.

Clearly, this bill reflects these wider perceptions and I accept and laud it. For me, when this bill becomes law, as I hope it will, the logical contradiction between my role as a physician and my belief system will be lessened.

It has also made me reflect on what I believe and what I consider important. Our life is an uncertain, transient, solitary, brutish and short one. The very fact that it is so transient, however, fills me with an uncomplicated, probably very physiological, appreciation of just being alive.

There is, of course, one certainty in my life, and that is that I shall die. Maybe it is only false and unbecoming pride in us, when we are such clearly transiently sentient beings, that makes us care how we die. But I do care, and I insist that when the time comes that death is imminent, or when I have come

to a decision that death is the only alternative, I want to decide for myself. I want to decide not egotistically, but because my very commitment, and my choice of the moment for my death, is in itself an act of human dignity and an act of freedom.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, first I'd like to state very clearly that I agree with the basic premise or principle of the bill; that is the right of each and every individual to decide what type of medical attention will be given to him and whether or not it shall be given. With that I cannot quarrel.

Secondly, I would like to commend the member for Parry Sound for introducing this bill, because I believe it is an issue that needs to be debated publicly. For too long the subject of dying and all that is associated with it has been taboo in our society. As a matter of fact it is as much today as the subject of sex was 20 years ago—you simply didn't talk about it. I am not suggesting that we go as far with this issue as we have with the first one.

An hon. member: Actions speak louder than words.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak against the bill. However, I want to make it very clear to the member who introduced it that anything I say should not be intended to imply motives to him or those people who support it. I'm speaking to the bill itself.

I have to speak against the bill for three reasons: The first one is I believe that it is not necessary legislation. One thing government should not do is introduce legislation that is not needed, because that, in my estimation, is bad legislation.

The second reason I would speak against it is because it will in fact create more problems than it solves. I cannot personally see any point in creating more problems than we already have.

The third reason I'll speak against it is because there are significant moral and ethical values involved in this. As a matter of fact, as late as yesterday I was still not sure which position I was going to take, but in order to help me come to that point I met with the doctors, the administration staff and the medical ethical committees of the two hospitals in my community. I spent about two hours with each of those groups and unanimously all of them opposed it—all across it.

Why do I say that this bill is not necessary? It is because what the bill proposes to do can already be done. An individual right

now can say to his doctor: "I don't want that to be prolonged." If the individual is not capable, the family can do it. They can say to his doctor: "I don't want that to be done." The returns from the latest survey among doctors, both in Canada and in the United States, suggest that 94 per cent of doctors would respect that request.

The other thing the bill says, is that doctors would be protected from prosecution, if in fact they were to do it. Once again, the information that I have is that there has not been a successful prosecution of a doctor for doing such a thing in the last 40 years—as far back as it goes. So the bill isn't necessary for those reasons. The second reason I say the bill is not necessary is because the core and the centre of the medical history and the medical situation in this province, in this country and in North America is the private individual doctor-patient relationship. I'm suggesting that the last thing we want to do is to introduce legislation to introduce government into that very private, very personal doctor-patient relationship.

The other point on which I think it is not necessary is because we're talking here in terms of trying to anticipate what is likely to happen. I would suggest that I could decide at this point in time to sign such a piece of paper and three years later, four years later or four and a half years later, before that thing automatically revokes itself, I may find myself in a very particular situation of life and death and I may feel very differently about it. But because of my position at that time I am unable to revoke it. I may be sentient and I may be sensible but unable to communicate.

I would suggest that on an issue like this one cannot plan in advance and we should not legislate in advance. It involves a particular point in time that is exclusive and cannot be looked at in any other way. At that particular point in time, the patient, his or her doctor and, if necessary, the family have to make that decision. The law and the government should stay out of it.

I am suggesting, secondly, that I must oppose it because it will create problems that don't exist now. This comes mainly from the seven or eight doctors that I specifically spoke to yesterday. I am coming back to the point I made earlier. This may not be intended, but the fact simply remains, if this is passed into law, if it becomes legislation, then the doctor feels that his hands will be tied. At the present time, he makes a decision on the spot, a decision relating to this particular point in time with this particular patient.

But if we have such legislation, and let us say there is no signed statement—I know what the bill says—the doctor is going to say, "What do I do?"

What I feel is going to flow from it, what the doctors say will flow from it, what the medical ethical committees say will flow from it is that it will not reduce what we are trying to reduce but will increase it. What will happen is that medical treatment that should be given, from a medical point of view at that particular point, will not be given. At the other end, medical treatment which perhaps should not be extended will continue to be extended because the doctor cannot know what was in the mind of the patient, because he did not sign this particular piece of paper. That's what we have to be concerned about. That's the kind of problem we are going to create that does not exist at the present time.

[4:30]

Let's look at the bill itself. It says that in order to make the final decision, two independent medical opinions have to be brought in. As a doctor pointed out to me yesterday, if a patient is wheeled into the emergency ward from a very serious accident, the doctor has to make a decision now—not 15 minutes from now; not an hour and a half from now—so somebody has to run out and round up two other people to help him make the decision. By that point in time, the man's dead.

Or, conversely, it's 3 o'clock in the morning and the hospital is practically empty; when the nurse finds the patient and the doctor moves in, he has to make a decision right then and there. What does he do? Does he call his colleagues at home, get them out of bed and say, "Get over here. I need you to help make this decision?"

This bill is tying their hands; it's creating a problem which the medical profession says doesn't exist at the moment. That's bad legislation. Why create a problem?

What about the ethical and moral decisions we have here? What are we talking about here? I know the member indicated that the intent is not to support euthanasia. But let's face it: In fact, what we are talking about here is, to use the terminology, passive or negative euthanasia. A life is being terminated. That is euthanasia. It is not positive euthanasia, I will admit that; but may I read one little point into the record? This is what I meant earlier when I said I am not imputing any motives to the member.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member has one minute.

Mr. Sweeney: Robert H. Williams, professor in the department of medicine, University of Washington, and long an advocate of euthanasia, made this observation:

"However, it seems unwise to attempt to bring about major changes permitting positive euthanasia until we have made more progress in changing laws and policies pertaining to negative euthanasia."

Here's a doctor in a school of medicine, an exponent of euthanasia, who says: "Look, fellows, let's get this little bit in first. That's step one. That's the moral, ethical problem. It's the thin edge of the wedge." I say, we support this legislation at our peril.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I'm very pleased to be able to speak today on this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, but more particularly on the process that has led to this privilege on our part.

Mr. Conway: It's called minority government.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I think it's a great day that we, the members of this House, can speak our minds—emotionally, as we've just seen, and to the member's credit; and intellectually, as we have also just seen, and to that member's credit. I think it is a fine day that that should happen.

I want to congratulate the member for Parry Sound for his fortitude in bringing in this bill. It certainly is one of some controversy; there shall be no doubt of that. But I think this is the kind of action that the people should expect from their representatives. So, to the member for Parry Sound, (Mr. Maeck) I give a good deal of credit.

I would like to be very brief, because I would hope that many members would avail themselves of the process of speaking on the type of bills we see today. Therefore, I think we can express our opinions in a very few minutes and do it effectively.

I would have to react a little bit to the remarks by the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney). I thought he viewed one of the instances in far too short a term. I suspect that no self-respecting physician would not do the ultimate in terms of life-sustaining drugs, facilities—the works, if I may put it that way—in the short term. If someone arrived at the hospital tomorrow, I would imagine that every facility would be used to protect that patient's life until a fuller and more careful assessment could be made. I think the member viewed that point from far too short a perspective.

But let me say why I would like to see this bill supported. Basically there are two reasons. One, it gives the individual a great deal of opportunity to express his or her own self-determination. I think we need more of that in this province. I think we are not superimposing government legislation, we are indeed giving the privilege to the individual to make a determination as he or she sees fit.

But perhaps my strongest reason for supporting this bill is because of my understanding of the Christian beliefs that I profess to have. Some might disagree with the Christian belief and I am not asking anyone else to take either my understanding of the Christian belief or, indeed, as they themselves understand the Christian belief. But I think surely that the message of this past weekend clearly demonstrates that there is no fear in death, and if we take another view, surely we have missed the salient point of the Christian belief.

Mr. Good: We all want to go to heaven, but not today.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I think the member really confuses the basic issue, at least as I perceive it.

Mr. Ferris: There is a difference between heaven and hell.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: This is not a bill to prematurely end life. It is a bill that will not permit the overextension of life beyond the natural and normal method of sustaining life. I think there is a significant difference.

So as I understand it, and particularly as I understood the teachings, as I was able to read them, of Sir William Osler, without doubt the most famous and renowned physician in Canada, he viewed death as though it were to sleep. I think we should be given as individuals this dignity, that we should not be asked to prolong our lives, but we should have that dignity to end our life in a natural and normal fashion.

To end on that thought I would say I believe all of us who believe in the Christian faith must have the right to die by the same faith that we have lived. And that seems to me to lead us to the point where we could die a normal and natural death as outlined in the bill that the member for Parry Sound presented.

Mr. Lawlor: Mr. Speaker, I think it best in this debate not to advert to specifically religious propositions or presuppositions. It can be handled on a broader basis. Let me read the oath of Hippocrates: "I swear by

Apollo the physician, by Aesculapius, and health and all heal, and all the gods and goddesses, that according to my ability and judgement I will keep this oath and stipulation." And in the body of the oath it says it will preserve life.

The reverence for life is probably as close to an absolute as we can get in this society. On the other hand, the fear of the under-going of suffering is very relevant. Suffering on one side can be quite ennobling; on the other side it can be demoralizing and de-humanizing. It depends upon the flux and direction of circumstances.

I think it should be abundantly clear to this assembly that this is a bill neither having to do with suicide or, properly speaking, with euthanasia. It is not a happy death bill. Maybe you could stretch it by talking something about negative euthanasia. That is not really even within the dimensions of the thing.

Everyone I think in this assembly, or I suspect pretty well in any case as far as the tenor of this legislation is concerned, would be opposed to a direct taking of life. He would be also opposed to an omission which has the eventuality of bringing death about where otherwise means could be taken. But the area in which we are dealing here, all moral codes that I know of wouldn't take exception to, namely, you don't of necessity use artificial and extraordinary means to keep a human being alive, particularly if that human being doesn't wish to remain alive.

With that I nevertheless find the legislation defective. And largely for the reasons that were given by the member for Kitchener-Wilmot. Listen, we legislate too much. The present status out there with respect to the medical profession in the handling of people who are terminally ill is well enough to be let alone. They use prudence. They use mercy. They are perfectly aware of the incidence of suffering. They will withdraw the mechanisms to let a person die naturally. They will not unduly sustain life as some kind of biological feat.

We are too influenced by the Quinlan case in this particular. The jurisprudential problems surrounding the California situation are quite different, involving tort suits against physicians, et cetera, either in their failure to provide mechanisms to prolong life or in their failure not to provide them. So it goes both ways.

As to the legal profession, we know of nothing comparable to that, nor within the ambit of the common law is that a procedure or a mode of address and I quote, "at least

at the present time." Therefore, the matter rests well enough.

Once you bring in the legislation, what the member for Kitchener-Wilmot said is absolutely correct: If, into the emergency ward comes an individual badly smashed in an accident of some kind, what does the physician do? Does he go searching for the card in the first instance? Does he say, "I wonder if this fellow happens to have a card indicating his desirability?" On the other side of the question, as he attends to the patient, suppose he finds there is such a card? Does he have to construe that as a truncating of any further treatment? Is he not to do anything to help this human being?

Let us assume the human being in this instance—the member says all these cases are rare, so let's have rarity within rarity—is unconscious and can't indicate at that particular stage one way or the other. An awful lot of conditions that come to a hospital are terminal if they are not treated. That's the nature of the thing. Therefore, in the particular situation he may feel that if he treats in the face of a card, he could very likely be subject to suit.

We raise the Hydra head by bringing the legislation forward. If there is no card, as at the present time, a discretionary decision in the wisdom of the physician is made as to how to treat, when to treat, to what degree to treat, all these matters, and if here is no card the legislation may very well be construed in the opposite sense, that he must treat and he must treat with every means available. Otherwise, again he'll stand the possibilities of damages in a court action.

Why engender all that fuss? Over and above that, there's the whole host of phrases here that have to be worked out and determined and more precisely defined. The word terminal, as in terminal condition, is not a word even among the medical profession, as I understand it, easily arrived at by any means. The incurable condition. What is an incurable condition? I don't think there is any definitive determination in the medical profession as to what an incurable condition is. Some conditions that appear to be incurable are not incurable. People are cured.

Then there is the whole situation with respect to the use of "imminent." When is imminent imminent—two weeks, a few hours? Again, there is enormous flux in here, a very great difficulty in making the determination. So what do we gain? We open the Pandora's box to bring explicit legislation in and cause confusion and compound a situation which could be very well left alone.

Another point that has been brought to my attention is with respect to transplants. Sometimes it's necessary to use life-sustaining mechanisms or artificial means to keep people alive in order to perform the transplant, to have the time, et cetera. Are they not to do that in face of a card or if the individual can't consent one way or the other? What if you have two cards, one for transplant and one for which you de-terminate?

[4:45]

While I think pretty well every member of this assembly has deep respect for the member's intention, for what he is trying to do—don't let him follow California on the thing. He is not improving the situation by doing so. In my opinion, he is not helping the medical profession. Certainly, he is doing nothing in terms of law to assist the courts. He is confusing the issue. I'm going to have my final dig: they send my bill out to a royal commission; this is a very deserving subject for the same treatment—and that's probably terminal too.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I want to inform the hon. members that the mover and the sponsor of this bill still has four minutes of his time left in order to answer questions and he will be recognized at 4:50.

Mr. R. S. Smith: That leaves me three minutes, which is all I need because everything has already been said. I will oppose the bill for a number of reasons, most of which have been given by the previous speaker and the member for Kitchener-Wilmot and which have been pointed out to me by those people I conferred with in my own area, as the mover of the bill well knows. I have also spoken with him on a personal basis with regard to the bill and I don't intend to allude to that; but he fully realizes my reasons for opposing the bill.

The explanatory note, if that was all the bill represented, would, I think, be acceptable to almost every member in this Legislature. But the bill does go much farther and brings into play other things which, I believe, are not in the best interests of society. The bill is, in itself, another intrusion of government into the rights of the individual by setting up a law which is very difficult to be reversed if, in fact, it does not work out well. We have a lot of those laws on our books; they stay there—and the public suffers in the long run.

I firmly believe the bill also takes away from the medical profession some of the rights it now has to make decisions. If the person

himself who has, or has not, signed the card is not in a position, because of his state, to make a decision for himself, I firmly believe his family and his physician together should make that decision as to whether the extraordinary means that are being used, or could be used, should be withheld.

I would point out to you that I have spoken with the members of the medical profession in my area—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member's time has expired.

Mr. Maecck: Give him some more.

Mr. R. S. Smith: They have expressed their opposition to the bill, and so have the directors of one of the hospitals in my area. I should also point out that I have spoken to at least two people who feel that if such legislation had been in place and they had received one of those cards, they would have not received the extraordinary means that prolonged their lives well beyond a few weeks, and into years and years. I think that is perhaps a significant point when you talk to people who have had that experience.

Mr. Bullbrook: May I presume to say that I just think the quality of the debate and the exposition of the various arguments has been just superb. It's obvious that the exercise that we've undertaken under the new rules is a most advantageous one to us and the public and I compliment it.

If I may say to my colleague from Parry Sound, I found the most telling argument for those who oppose his legislation—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is this for the purpose of asking a question?

Mr. Reid: Yes, he wants his opinion.

Mr. Bullbrook: Yes. I appreciate your indulgence. The most telling argument is the fact that the legislation seemingly is redundant. There is nothing under the law at the present time that deprives an individual of the right to say to his physician: "I don't want that type of treatment." I'd ask the hon. member then to respond to the question: Why do we need the legislation, in view of the redundancy?

Mr. Maecck: Probably that's the first question I should deal with because I have only a couple of minutes left. The reason I feel there's a need is simply this: It's all very well to say that the doctors and the family can sit down and make a decision. If someone should suddenly have a stroke, as an example,

he's not able to speak. Perhaps he's never indicated to his family his feelings on this matter. So his family does not know what his desires are. His doctor doesn't know. He suddenly has a stroke and he has been declared terminal. What does the doctor do? He and the family must take on that authority and make that decision. I don't believe it's the doctor's place or the family's place to make that decision. I think I should have the right to indicate that ahead of time. I just feel that that is important.

The member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) mentioned that 94 per cent of the doctors would carry out the patient's wishes. Okay, what happens to the other six per cent? Who's looking after those people? There are those six per cent out there, if that's the case, who, if they become terminal, are going to be put on life-sustaining machinery whether they want to or not. I'm not saying that's a general practice, but I am saying that I as an individual or any adult as an individual should have the right to decide whether or not he should be put on life-sustaining equipment if he becomes terminal and if he's been declared terminal by at least two other physicians besides his own.

The matter of somebody being pulled up out of, say, a car, after an accident or so on, being taken into the hospital and being ignored, I think is a little far-fetched. I don't think any doctors can diagnose any case in 15 or 20 minutes. I think the natural reaction would be for them to give them aid. This directive is not going to be enforced in 10 or 15 minutes time. I don't think that's an argument.

I don't know if there's anything else that I wanted to mention or not. The member for Nipissing mentioned the rights of the medical profession, suggesting they might be taken away. It's not my intention to take away the rights of the medical profession at all. I don't think the bill does that, but what it does is relieve those people of the responsibility of having to advise the family what should be done. You or I or whoever has signed the directive made that decision for them.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Some consider that their right and their responsibility.

Mr. Maec: Everyone is entitled to his own opinion on this matter. It's permissive legislation. You don't have to sign a directive if you don't wish. But if it did become law and you decided to sign a directive, you, in effect, would be making the decision rather

than asking your family or your clergy or the doctor.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member's time has expired.

Mr. Sweeney: You can't make that decision in advance.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question of whether or not there will be a vote on this item will be decided at 5:45. We'll deal with item 2.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Mr. Lawlor moved second reading of Bill 4, An Act to provide for Freedom of Information.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member has the floor for up to 20 minutes.

Mr. Lawlor: The freedom of information bill before the House today is founded on several matters. It's an amalgam of many sources and statutes. The base of it is the bill of the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) of an earlier date, somewhat built upon and fleshed out. We looked at the American statute which passed through the American Congress in 1967 and was amended fairly substantially since that time, particularly in 1974, and the bill produced by Jed Baldwin up in the federal House—he calls it The Right to Information Act. Our bill—and that's an editorial "our"—is set up along somewhat different lines.

Honourable mention should be given to a man called Vasilkioti, the Conservative candidate running against the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell), who drafted a bill and presented it to us at an earlier time, and to the Swedish legislation.

Can there be any question that such a bill is needed? We in the opposition know it direly. We know it from the dearth of information that flows. It's kind of commentary, a curious one, on the democratic process that such a bill should be found necessary at all; that in an open system of government, such as we supposedly have, we don't feel that's the way it operates.

Under this particular head, I would like to quote from the joint Senate-House minutes of proceedings in evidence on the joint standing committee regulations and other statutory instruments, written in this instance by Eugene Forsey. I don't quote Eugene too often any more. He's kind of a purblind, maladroit fellow as far as I'm concerned, particularly

on the Quebec issue, but on matters of this kind he has an exemplary capability. I want to read into the record at page 32-47:

"The complaint most often made and most intensely expressed concerning the provision of government information was that the practice of the Canadian government"—and this, of course, includes the Ontario government—"although enshrined neither in principle nor policy, was to release only that information which was considered advantageous or harmless and automatically to withhold the rest. The operative principle seemed to be, 'When in doubt, classify it.'"

I would dare say, if this thing is finally opened up somewhat, that 80 per cent of the information that is held in secret at present would be revealed as a great revelation on the day of judgement and that only 20 per cent would be withheld for very good and obvious reasons.

The chief weight of the legislation, and the conceivable argument against it, has to do with the privacy of individuals. I think it's just as well to deal with that first. It may be said that this legislation before us doesn't adequately protect or forfend in this regard. I would ask the members of the House to look at section 3, where the exemptions, the non-disclosable items, are set forth. The first two have to do with security and foreign relations. The fourth says:

"Documents, the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

I admit that was borrowed from the American statute. It has held over the whole period. It hasn't been amended. It stands and it is the most succinct and direct way of protecting personal privacy. We want to keep the exemptions in this kind of legislation to the very minimum. The whole purpose of the legislation is in the direction of disclosure. Where the disclosure is not warranted in that rather narrow sphere, then of course it has to be adequately protected.

Next, I want to point to clause 8:

"Documents that are excluded from disclosure by statute."

If we look at the statutes having to do with taxation matters, we will invariably see clauses in there making for confidentiality of financial reports and all kinds of information having to do with the internal operation of businesses, particularly corporations. It's already in most statutes in this regard.

[5:00]

If whatever government exists sees fit, with respect to areas of information touching the personal lives of citizens which ought not to be easily disclosed or readily available for whomever wants to snoop, then that can be put into any piece of legislation. If there's legislation now that doesn't contain a clause and they believe it should contain such a clause—in the area of welfare, in the area of health and the area of education—so be it. You could pass a statute. At least we would get the opportunity to canvass the proposition in this House and it wouldn't be used unilaterally and arbitrarily by some cabinet minister, et cetera who is simply anxious to protect his own flanks—

Mr. Conway: Shame.

Mr. Lawlor: —from all directions.

Mr. Conway: Shame.

Mr. Lawlor: Protection is given in this legislation to the minister of the executive council, but it seems to me that it didn't want to go very much further than that. We all respect cabinet secrecy; it can't make decisions otherwise. Nevertheless, a great deal of information, reports, various types of documentation is given to the cabinet upon which to make the decision which should be available to us too so that we can see the basis upon which these decisions were made.

It should go beyond that. We should know what the alternatives discussed might be, but I do not think you can penetrate into the closure of cabinet as such or would we want to do so nor does the legislation call for that. On the contrary, the legislation specifically excludes that sort of thing.

The structure of the bill, as to the first part, defines a public document in a very broad way. That has been worked over, expanded—and it's not in line, it's fairly new drafting—to try and cover the whole area as to what can be elicited, what is being sought and to cover the ground pretty thoroughly.

The second section is interesting because here's the major problem. In the United States, and to some degree in Sweden too, the freedom of information legislation has spawned something of a bureaucracy and has proved fairly costly to the public purse to make disclosures as required. I thought that initially at least, to get the legislation off the ground, to get it into operation, it would be best to cut out all that and simply move to the heart of the matter, reposing a certain amount of faith in the public servants, et cetera, in this particular regard. So I say that, subject to the exemptions, any person

may request in writing any public document from a government organization, where the request reasonably identifies the subject matter, or a list of public documents affecting the subject matter, and upon receiving the request, the government organization shall make available as soon as possible such a document or list of documents for examination. It does. It's not perfect but it does save a great deal of cost.

In the United States under their Public Information Act, they have gone to a system of indexing with elaborate provisions—many sections and so on—it is a system of indexing all these internal memorandum, all the internal documentation, manuals and everything else which they publish every quarter for the perusal of the general public. The minister is perfectly right. This has been abused by certain corporations in the United States in working over that particular material and making demands upon it.

I don't see at this stage publishing all these lists. People who want to know something within, say, a particular area of nuclear energy or something of that kind, know with some specificity what they are after. The government servants can say, "Well, this is what we have available internally. What do you want?" And there has to be some reciprocity in order to get the thing operating.

I am one of those who believes that the office of the Ombudsman should not be contracted, restricted or truncated in any way. On the contrary, it should be expanded. The role and functions of the Ombudsman are not sufficiently full and warranted and operating in this province at the present time and so I thought—and this is what the Swedes do; they have an Ombudsman in this particular regard—I thought that if there was a dispute between a government agency and whoever is out there wanting information that was denied, that the Ombudsman could be the referee. Why not, in this particular? Then, if that didn't appear to be quite palatable, let's take it beyond that, by way of sealed documentation, to the courts, because a government agency might, under various circumstances particularly, not want to accede to the Ombudsman—its own creature, so to speak—and would want to take it on, if it felt the matter was of sufficient secrecy and importance, to a judge of the high court. So be it, and one has no exception to that.

And then if there are other areas open up with respect to what may or may not be legitimately asked for—provisions made in the regulations. But, again, the legislation goes one step further and says we all chafe

under the present system touching regulations—we all spend all our nights reading the Ontario Gazette. In this particular situation, I say that the standing committee of the Legislature having to do with regulations—which is a kind of dormant body if ever there was one—might peruse the regulation exempting a particular area and give its approval.

Again, we keep it within the legislative intent. The matter is controlled and operative through this body, where it has to be, and ought to be, and I trust would be regarded by all members of this House as an innovative measure. It is one way in which the British Parliament, by the way, does fairly often with respect to their regulations, and which we have never done. That is, indeed, a great shame.

You see the balance of the sections having to do with cost and so on, preventing vexatious and frivolous proceedings to be taken. A person, if he forces the thing up to the high court, very well might have to pay the costs if he hasn't got good grounds for asking for this thing and for pushing it thus far. I think that's a warranted and worthy provision.

The minister will talk about our kind of constitution being different from other constitutions. I am inclined to agree, in this kind of legislation, with Professor Rawlyk that the constitutional issue, while important and to be cognizant of, is not all that important. The problem is is the information available or ain't it? If we need it and we want it, are there legitimate grounds for withholding it? That, in any system of government, would be the primary consideration. I don't think that all this malarkey and all this background paper that we have been subjected to—

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I hope you read it before you comment on it.

Mr. Conway: You insulted the Attorney General.

Mr. Lawlor: I read it with great care—three times, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Conway: You are going to upset the Attorney General.

Mr. Foulds: Your batting average isn't very good, Roy.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: It's a lot better than yours.

Mr. MacDonald: Philadelphia is coming to town.

Mr. Martel: If Carleton Williams is heading up that study you're lost.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Can we have some order, please? You're taking the time away from the member for Lakeshore. This is a structured debate.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Structured? It is a very structured presentation.

Mr. Lawlor: I put it to this House that adequate provision for privacy is made in **the terms of this legislation**. I put it to this House that the other subterfuge and various traducings attempted in this particular background paper, pointing out the Wall report—the Wall report is a report which fundamentally says that **confidentiality should be lifted**, to some degree, from the civil service and that internally through the civil service they should make these decisions. Guidelines could be laid down—you have no necessity for legislation under this head. Things are fine as they are and you ought not to open it up in this particular way.

Mr. Bullbrook: What did you do with all those brown paper bags we sent you?

Mr. Lawlor: It's a case of arterial sclerosis over there. You do get hardening of the arteries. All bodies, particularly when they've been exercising too long end up with a kind of cretinous condition. This government has been so self-enclosed and so habitually addicted to withholding information over the years that it finds it quite impossible to do gracefully what the times call for, and which most other civilized jurisdictions do voluntarily. What does this government do when this kind of legislation is mooted? It immediately turns around and says that it's going to appoint—it wasn't quite sure what kind of commission it was going to appoint for quite a while. The Throne Speech says some kind of commission. The government got around finally, the following day to say it was going to be a royal commission.

The minister has seen, I trust, the remarks made by some of my colleagues about the constitution of that commission, particularly as to its chairman. We have grave misgivings about the operation of that commission. It's already predeclined, through its chairman, in the government's favour.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: As an Irish nationalist, are you offended by the use of the word "royal"?

Mr. Lawlor: Have you suddenly gone simple-minded?

Mr. Conway: It wasn't a very long trip.

Mr. MacDonald: Fred Shero is going to look after you.

Mr. Lawlor: I, therefore, knowing and holding for an idea whose time has come, ask all members, since I trust this is a free vote on all sides of this House, to vote for this legislation. If members find there's some minor weakness somewhere—

Mr. Reid: Just in the speaker.

Mr. Lawlor:—and I can't lay claim to total perfection in these matters, it can be amended in committee. It would be welcomed in these terms, but if members want to flesh something out or make it clear, so be it. The legislation has great validity and I particularly want to commend the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) for having been the first to introduce the matter to this House.

Mr. Singer: I start off my remarks in this debate by complimenting the hon. member for Lakeshore in bringing this bill forward. Those of us who have been here for a while have become absolutely frustrated at the inability to obtain information from government, information that the people of Ontario are entitled to get and that their representatives are entitled to get. What we receive instead of information is a bunch of gobble-dyhook, subterfuge, plots and cute answers. A bunch of nonsense emanates from the government benches, and there is no free exchange of information.

It's sufficient for the day that the government is in charge and can order the business of the province. That is their duty and responsibility. But at least they are supposed to be a democratic government. One has to wonder at the extent of democracy, at least in the minds of those who have governed in this province for some 30 years or more, when they refuse to give to the other elected representatives who don't happen to wear their same party badge information which will allow appropriate discussion of matters of public concern.

Mr. Speaker, you will remember with me that over the years we have asked time and again for the records and the minutes of the Ontario Housing Corporation. There has been great concern in the minds of a number of us as to the method whereby the Ontario Housing Corporation buys and sells and deals in property. I thought we are making some progress with the newest Minister of Hous-

ing (Mr. Rhodes)—and I'm sorry he isn't here today—who promised this House over a year ago that he was going to work out some method whereby the minutes of the Ontario Housing Corporation could be examined by members of the Legislature.

He put a couple of caveats into that kind of a study. He said "You wouldn't want to make public matters affecting personnel." Perhaps not. "You wouldn't want to make public matters affecting a transaction not yet to be completed." Perhaps not. "You wouldn't want to make public matters which would seriously affect the marketability of a particular piece of real estate." Perhaps not. After we got the various caveats from the Minister of Housing, the matter died, yet to come back to light again. None of us yet has been able to see the minutes of the Ontario Housing Corporation and what they would reveal, or to see any explanation of some of the most peculiar dealings in land—at least as they appeared to us, at least as they appeared to the media and at least as they appeared to voters.

I am very happy to see that the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) is next on the list to join this debate. I hope he will give us something more than the pap that is contained in the so-called white paper.

[5:15]

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Have you read it?

Mr. Singer: Yes, I've read it; I've read it in detail.

I wonder why, and I would ask the Attorney General—through you, of course, Mr. Speaker; I wouldn't engage in this kind of talk—I would ask him to explain to us when he gets on his feet, and I'm sure he will, why it has taken this government all these years to bring forward nothing more than a really nebulous white paper which promises action some time in the future. Why is his word in the white paper any more useful or valid than the word of the Minister of Housing, which he gave to this House a year and a half ago when we asked him—was it for the 10th, 12th or 15th time?—to let us have a look at the minutes of the Ontario Housing Corporation?

What I say substantially is this: There is no reason to believe that this government is serious when it talks about disclosure of information. There is no reason at all to believe it's serious, because questions sit on the order paper. He, the Attorney General, and his colleagues give us these snappy answers—they think they are very clever—

they sit down and we don't know the answer. Or the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) for instance. What better evader of fact is there than the Treasurer, who makes a loud political attack on people seeking legitimate information to appropriately consider matters of government policy?

Having said that, I say that my colleagues and I are anxious and eager to support a bill which will force as quickly as possible, and bring about as quickly as possible, a system of disclosure of information. I think this has to be an immediate part of the legislative procedures and provisions of the province of Ontario.

I agree with the hon. member for Lakeshore that his bill is something far less than perfect, and there are a number of changes I would like to see in it. However, in principle I have no hesitation in supporting it. For instance, I wonder whether or not we really should appoint the Ombudsman as a person who is going to sit in judgement on whether or not particular pieces of information are relevant or come within some of the exclusions that the Act provides.

Mr. Lawlor: Why on earth not?

Mr. Singer: I believe that there is a very serious danger that can be further aggravated by giving to the Ombudsman yet more power to make decisions which will set him over and above the Legislature. I would like to see section 4, referring to the Ombudsman, deleted from this statute and whatever review there has to be perhaps entrusted to the court.

I'm not too happy with the kinds of exclusions as they are worded; they're pretty broadly drawn. I would think if we had a little more time—perhaps in committee—the definitions set out in section 3 could be expanded and made more specific.

With those comments, Mr. Speaker, again we commend the introduction of this bill. We believe it deserves the support of all members of this House. The test is going to be, when the Attorney General speaks, as to whether or not he is serious. We've heard far too long from him and his colleagues, and from his predecessors and their colleagues, that they believe in the freedom of information. They give lip-service to democracy, but let them put their lips where their principles lie and let them support this kind of a statute.

Mr. Acting Speaker: The hon. member for Eglinton.

Mr. Moffatt: The opposition critic.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I certainly hope, Mr. Speaker, that I'll be able to make a little more useful contribution to this debate than was made by the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Singer: Just say you'll support the bill.

Some hon. members: Support the bill!

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I should state at the outset that I ought to be very pleased with the interest of the hon. member for Lakeshore with respect to this obviously very important and most crucial topic. I'm certainly willing to concede that the introduction of his bill is at least a useful contribution to the continuing investigation of what should be the best approach. However, as I've already clearly indicated in the Throne Speech debate, it is my view that the legislation is, firstly, premature—

Mr. Nixon: Shame.

Mr. Lawlor: Fifty years too late.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —and, secondly, contains very substantial defects; I'll touch on some of these in a few moments. In my respectful view, it would be not in the public interest to support such legislation.

The member for Lakeshore (Mr. Lawlor) has acknowledged the fact that his legislation is based to a very large extent on the US freedom of information Act. He has also referred to Sweden as well, and recognizes the fact that both those Acts are obviously based on very different constitutional principles and are not appropriate to the Canadian experience. In relation to the, I think, very important background paper, it should be pointed out that in Canada very little scholarly attention has, in fact, been paid to the many issues that have been raised, and certainly there has really been very little detailed analysis of the US and the Swedish solutions. The debate in Canada, as a matter of fact, has been confined to date to a relative handful of contributions and those are referred to in the white paper.

I think it should be pointed out again that the experience in the US has been very useful and has demonstrated the enormous cost that has been involved in enforcing the rights under the Act. It has not only added enormously to government bureaucracy but because of the litigation—

Mr. Bain: It would be cheaper not to have an election either.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —the member should be interested in this—and because of the adversary system that has been set up there, the principal beneficiaries of the US legislation have been the large corporations, because they are the only people who have been able to afford the very costly litigation that is engaged in in relation to whether or not there has been a compliance with the legislation.

Mr. Conway: That would make it like the Tory party.

Mr. Drea: The Marxist mind always has the answer.

Mr. Lawlor: You think it is a sop to the socialists, do you?

Mr. Drea: Yes.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I point out again that it is recognized in the United States that the treatment, in the US, of freedom of information and privacy in separate legislation has caused enormous confusion and uncertainty in relation to interpreting both Acts.

If I may turn to the bill that has been introduced, I should like to make some specific comments in relation to what I view to be very substantial defects. First, the list of exceptions in section 3(1) raises more questions than it answers. For example, what constitutes "a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy" in paragraph 4? The same expression in the US freedom of information Act has certainly spawned a great deal of litigation and it is yet to be satisfactorily defined. I think just simply to crib some legislation from another jurisdiction and assume that this is going to serve the interests of the people in Ontario is really not a very useful approach.

Mr. Martel: You had better vote against Lorne Maccek's bill in a little while.

Mr. Lawlor: You are not even considering your legislation.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: The exceptions in paragraphs 6 and 11 contain the potential of rendering the right of access declared in section 2 almost totally meaningless. After the member attempts to establish precise criteria for disclosure in sections 2 and 3, the bill then goes on to empower the Ombudsman to order the release of documents when in his opinion it is in the public interest that this be done. This is section 4(3). The effect of this provision is to eliminate from the bill any identifiable criteria.

Mr. Nixon: The member for Lakeshore was trying to protect the government.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Furthermore, I think section 4 does raise very fundamental questions about the role of the Ombudsman. For example, in no other instance does he have the power to direct or order that things be done. He can recommend only. Paragraph 8 of section 3(1) of the bill specifically exempts from the requirement of disclosure, "documents that are excluded from disclosure by statute." The effect of section 4(3) is to permit the Ombudsman to rewrite the statutory exemptions; and I think the same may be said about section 7, which confers power on the Lieutenant Governor in Council to order the release of any public document where it is in the public interest to do so.

I suggest Mr. Speaker, that a fundamental defect of the bill—

Mr. Kerrio: It is premature?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —is that it promotes an overly legalistic approach to the question of access to public documents, and it certainly encourages both the individual and the government to adopt adversary stances.

Mr. Lawlor: I wish I had kept my 2½ minutes now.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: As I indicated, furthermore, the bill ignores the most fundamental importance of dealing with information privacy and automated data processing in the same bill, and if the member was really acting in the public interest he would recognize the wisdom of dealing with both those issues at the same time.

Mr. MacDonald: Now you are casting doubt on the hon. member's motives.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Finally, when any dispute over the release of public documents reaches the courts, again at this point in time the judge—at least as I read the legislation—would appear to have a wide open discretion to determine the issue—in the member's words—as he thinks fit, without reference to the specific section 3(1); for example the exclusions or the Ombudsman's opinion of where the public interest may lie.

So quite apart from what I say is premature, the bill itself will create far more problems than it will ever solve. It may well be a bonanza for lawyers, but I certainly don't think that was in the hon. member's mind when he introduced the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, my first words must be of thanks to my colleague from Lakeshore for introducing this bill.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They are turning the lights off.

Mr. MacDonald: That's right. The darknesses will descend on us when we have to vote on this this afternoon.

Mr. Conway: The lights are dimming.

Mr. Reid: You are casting us all into darkness.

Mr. MacDonald: I trust you are deducting all that time off mine, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nixon: All of this is time; it's all counting.

Mr. MacDonald: My luck of the draw this year on the private member's bills brought me in 70th position, so it would have been some time in the 1980s—

Mr. G. I. Miller: Pity.

Mr. Reid: Well that's about your relative standing in the House.

Mr. MacDonald: The fact that my colleague was willing to bring this in is an evidence not only of it being a personal concern of mine and of his, but a personal concern of this whole party, because we have given it the first place in terms of private member's bills.

Mr. Drea: As a party?

Mr. MacDonald: The hon. member for Lakeshore has dealt with the substance of this bill and, given the restraints of time, I am not going to deal with the substance of the bill any more. I want to deal with the political context in which we are considering it.

It was widely believed that the government was going to bring in a bill on freedom of information. It was almost an open secret; the press was speculating on it. Yet when the Throne Speech came down we discovered that the government had said it had opted for a commission on freedom of information and individual privacy.

The best comment I have seen on that is not only the little stiletto effort of it being a spurious commission, but the lead editorial of the *Hamilton Spectator* on April 5, right after the Throne Speech, drew attention to the great challenge today to get governments to be a part of the people instead of government being separate from the people. They

said the theory that government is part of the people is being shot to pieces because it is becoming a separate entity, groping in various ways to work out some new mutually acceptable relationships with the public.

Then their comment on what is happening in Ontario was as follows: "In Ontario this effort has taken a strange and pathetic form—a commission on freedom of information and individual privacy. The commission on freedom of information is not a noble attempt to restore decent relations between the people and government. It's an admission of government's failure."

[5:30]

This study is not needed; we study things to death. This government has the greatest propensity of studying things to death, instead of acting to come to grips with solving the problem.

Mr. Conway: It is just their socialist instinct.

Mr. MacDonald: The Attorney General was quoted on radio this morning as saying: "We don't want to stumble into this issue." This afternoon he had a new version—"It's premature." How something can be premature when it's as long overdue as this mystifies me a little. I think he should have a discussion with the hon. Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson).

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Read the background paper carefully.

Mr. MacDonald: We'll come to the background paper in a moment.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Carefully.

Mr. MacDonald: The proposition that we are stumbling into this issue is just a piece of nonsense. The government may be stumbling into the issue, they may be backing into the issue; but we have generations of experience with regard to freedom of information in Sweden, we've had a decade of experience with it in the United States. In Ottawa Jed Baldwin has been leading something approaching a crusade to get freedom of information legislation passed in the House of Commons. He now has the backing of the Bar Association in Canada.

It's interesting that a Tory in Ottawa finds that he is bucking the Liberals and they won't break down the traditional inhibitions to freedom of information; whereas when we get down here the opposition is attempting to deal with the Tory government and facing the same road blocks.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: What about your friends in Ottawa?

Mr. Nixon: You Tories didn't think of it when you were in a minority situation in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South has the floor. Order, please.

Mr. MacDonald: I want to come back to the province of Ontario. The Attorney General was aware of the fact that a very significant group of Conservative lawyers had been working on this issue for quite some time.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Vasilkoti will be sitting in this House after the next election.

Mr. Nixon: How well the Tories do down there in St. George.

Mr. Conway: Remember March, 1973, Roy?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: That was premature.

Mr. Foulds: You stumbled into that.

Mr. MacDonald: Last fall, Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General got up and criticized the hon. member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer) because of his contribution. His function here this afternoon is to run interference and to play games with an important issue. That's all he's done so far.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member for York South will return to the principle of the bill.

Mr. MacDonald: I am dealing with the principle of the bill, Mr. Speaker. If you want to bring the Attorney General to heel instead of interrupting, then you would have some justification for trying to get me back to the principle. We've wasted about three or four minutes. A little bit of even application of the rules of the House around here—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will rule impartially.

Mr. Conway: The Attorney General is the one wasting time.

Mr. Moffatt: Who is that Speaker?

Mr. Drea: You wouldn't treat the Speaker that way?

Mr. MacDonald: If he deserved it, I would.

This government is backing into this issue in spite of the fact that it had a group of Tories who have studied it, who know that it is time, that it is not premature for a bill

to be brought in. They have made their representations to the Attorney General; the Attorney General's department prepared a bill; the bill went to the cabinet; and the cabinet took flight. The cabinet decided that they could not run the risk of the kind of freedom of information that would be passed by a government in a House in which they were a minority; so they've gone off to study it further because they're good.

The problem, Mr. Speaker, is the attitude. And what is the attitude of this government? Let's start right with the Premier (Mr. Davis).

Last April the Premier was interviewed on CFTO by Tom Clark. The question was: "Do you think we have too much secrecy in government?" The Premier's comment was: "I don't think there is. I think there are some people who feel there is too much secrecy. I think actually there's a great deal of public information, in fact more public information than probably either the media or the public generally can assimilate."

That's the attitude of this government. It always has been, and the whole cabinet has taken on that kind of an attitude.

Mr. Martel: You never release anything.

Mr. MacDonald: The net result of it, Mr. Speaker, was that a month later the Conservatives held an annual meeting and there was a revolt—at least it was termed a grass roots revolt on the front pages of the *Globe* and *Mail* which always reports authoritatively on the Conservative Party.

Mr. Makarchuk: It's a revolting party.

Mr. Moffatt: That's true.

Mr. MacDonald: The Premier then said that they were reviewing the situation; they were reviewing it and the result is that we now have this going off into a study.

Our problem, in terms of the attitude, is the tradition. We have a tradition of administrative secrecy in the British parliamentary system which makes a mockery, makes it impossible to have the kind of open government that we need in a modern democracy. Something has got to be done to reverse that tradition of administrative procedure.

We've had studies by COGP and they've said we should have a declaration of communications policy. We've had studies by the Wall report which said there should be less confidentiality; and I agree that both the COGP and the Wall report backed off when it came to the proposition of having legislation.

The AG's report, or this study paper that he's prepared that he's so proud of, is a rehash of all of that stuff. They have elevated it to a threat to the British parliamentary system if we don't go into this carefully, because somehow or other we're going to challenge this administrative secrecy which is sort of core to the whole British parliamentary system.

Mr. Speaker: One minute to go.

Mr. MacDonald: Right.

Mr. Conway: Does Bill Kelly like this bill?

Mr. MacDonald: The Attorney General argues that it is not appropriate to the Canadian experience. I suggest that it is appropriate. I suggest that his own colleagues in the Conservative Party told him at their annual meeting last year that it was appropriate. I suggest there's a group of lawyers, some of whom he thinks may be in this House after the next election, who have presented a bill to him; and his ministry has prepared the bill and brought it into the cabinet, and now he is backing off from this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I would agree there may be defects in this bill. Nobody for one moment would argue that in as complex a bill there might not be defects. But this bill has been before the House three times before. It has had the support of spokesmen from all parties on each occasion which it was debated. I suggest now is not premature. Now is the time, long overdue, to pass the bill. Send it out to committee, improve it where it needs to be improved; but let's come to grips with this issue instead of studying it still more.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. The hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to speak in favour of the bill before us. I certainly feel that if anything were put in the way of a free and democratic vote on the bill in the House it would be a tragedy indeed. I see some of the back-bench Tories—there are only six of them, of course—coming in in preparation for the disposition of this order of business, and I would certainly warn them against expressing any view against a free vote in the House.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: The hon. member who has just spoken is entirely correct. It has been before the House on three occasions; it has been supported on all sides; and it would be a

shame indeed if the will of the House were not now carried forward.

Interjections.

Mr. Makarchuk: They don't believe in democracy.

Mr. Nixon: I want to quote just very briefly, Mr. Speaker, from a publication I know you read carefully called "The Parliamentary"—

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: It is an article from January, 1977, having to do with cabinet confidentiality and the Crossman diaries. We're not talking about getting into disposition of cabinet secrets or anything like that. As a matter of fact, it is accommodated in this bill. But Lord Chalfont, whom I read regularly—

Hon. Mr. Welch: That's why you don't make sense.

Mr. Nixon: —in being quoted in "The Parliamentarian," quotes a man whom I do respect and do read regularly, Mr. Jo Grimond. Jo Grimond said on one occasion in the Mother of Parliaments, and I quote from him: "The bureaucratic frame of mind, self-regarding, secretive, hierarchical and averse to open discussion, is a major, though perhaps well-intentioned threat to our society." I will tell you that the passage of this bill and its acceptance wholeheartedly by the offices of government would do much to strengthen our method of government and reaffirm our commitment to true democracy; which surely is that decisions are not taken in secret, that the basic information available to government is also available to the public and that the public does have a right to know. So I say that it is a matter of high principle for every member of the House to respond to this bill before us and not to use some sort of a legal loophole in the rule to dispose of it otherwise.

Hon. Mr. Welch: You agreed to the rules.

Mr. Singer: It is at your peril.

Hon. Mr. Welch: You agreed to the new rule. Don't start talking about loopholes.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has the floor.

Mr. Nixon: The only other matter that concerns me is that the rumours in the newspapers may be correct, that before this bill

goes through and becomes law this House might be dissolved. I would assure you, Mr. Speaker—and I know it must concern you deeply—as far as the Liberal Party is concerned, when we form a government we will move this legislation in this Legislature, without delay.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: However, I am confident that the goodwill that has marked the debate this afternoon will carry forward into the taking of the vote and that no one is needlessly going to obstruct the declaration of the majority will in the House at this time.

Hon. J. R. Smith: You are going the way of the dinosaur.

Mr. Nixon: I just want to say something about an objection raised by the Attorney General. In his sort of quavery voice he said that this is going to cost a lot of money. I feel that is really an inadequate argument for a person in his capacity to put forward.

I do want to quote from a report that was in the Southam News Services by Ben Tierney, which I'm sure others have read. In that report he quotes from the research undertaken by the Library of Congress in the United States responding to a review of the American freedom of information statute. I quote from this article:

"The library researchers also tend to disagree with complaints concerning the cost of meeting requests under the Act. In 1975, the Department of Defence offered figures to Congress which suggested the department could be forced to fork over close to \$6 million. But, according to the figures produced after the law was in effect, the defence department actually reported an expenditure of only \$405,000." This was in the United States of America.

I feel that the arguments put forward by the Attorney General were simply to obstruct the passage of this bill. If our commitment to the private members' hour is something other than just a debating society and is a real one—and I know that the government House leader has made a real commitment to it—then we cannot allow the objections of the Treasurer, who has conveyed them to the Attorney General, to stand in the way of the passage of the bill.

I feel the bill is well drawn. If anything, the hon. member who put it forward was perhaps too careful about protecting anything that the government might want to keep in its secret files. As a matter of fact—and I hesitate to open myself to an interjec-

tion from him—it sounds as if he were already the Attorney General—

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Stop playing politics.

Mr. Nixon: —and attempting to protect his own butt before there were even any blemishes on it.

I would just say to all of those who might be concerned about a change in government that it appears to me if the NDP were elected, and God forbid, we would have the same sort of commitment to the concept, but drawing back from the application, that we have been so critical of in the Conservative side.

When I see that long list of exclusions, including that classic one that the Tories always use, which says something to the effect that “in case we haven’t thought of it already, anything else we want to exclude we can do so by law,” then that is unworthy of the hon. member for Lakeshore. If it does go to committee, as I trust it will, I for one would move that that be struck out.

I cannot agree, however, with my colleague when he objects to the role of the Ombudsman. I believe that is an approach that is supportable, although if the Attorney General did make a good point it was that the Ombudsman should not have the power to enforce but simply to make a recommendation, because his recommendations in our political system should be tantamount to a decision having been made.

I trust this bill will not be obstructed. If it is not obstructed, I know it will pass this House and add one of the most useful laws to the books of this province.

[5:45]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Scarborough Centre has up to four minutes.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. It will be less than a moment.

Mr. MacDonald: Be consistent.

Mr. Kerrio: Thank the Lord for small mercies.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Time is very short.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I shall be less than a moment. I give my respects to my friend the member for York South. I supported his private bill. If he had brought in this kind of a private bill at that time, I would not have supported it.

Mr. Nixon: The fix is in. You did it this morning and now you are doing it again.

Mr. Reid: That must be a reversible coat you are wearing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Drea: I would appreciate a sense of decorum in this House on this historic occasion.

Interjections.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, my friend and colleague, the hon. Attorney General, has said it far more eloquently and far more expertly than I, what is fundamentally wrong and—

An hon. member: That’s true.

Mr. Nixon: You are standing on your head.

Mr. Drea: —fundamentally invalid in this presentation. I am not going to repeat his remarks. I endorse them. Number one, this bill is premature.

Mr. Nixon: No.

Mr. Drea: Number two, it is redundant, because this government is far more concerned about civil liberties and the protection of the individual—

Mr. Nixon: You are wrong twice.

Mr. Drea: —than those who have a continued obsession with crime.

Interjections.

Mr. Drea: Above all, number three, with subsection 2 of section 3, it is probably the most dangerous piece of legislation put forward in this House since the infamous Bill 99.

Interjections.

Mr. Drea: I am very much surprised—I am very surprised—as a matter of fact I am quite taken back—

Mr. Warner: You should be taken back somewhere.

Mr. Drea: —that such a noted professional civil libertarian as the mover of this bill would put into any statute over which he had some control, and I presume he had some control in the drafting of this—

Mr. Lawlor: Some remote control.

Mr. Drea: —that subsection 2. Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, if the government was refusing to do something for somebody be-

cause they had a criminal record? Read that subsection 2. The criminal record gets to be a part of the proceedings of a standing committee. When he thought about this and when he drafted this, he should have taken a look at the protection of the individual.

Interjections.

Mr. Drea: But knowing the mentality that produces this kind of legislation—

Interjections.

Mr. Drea: —I will say there apparently are no lengths to which those who want to snoop and to pry and to get rid of any private considerations will go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Martel: That won't get you a cabinet post.

Mr. Conway: Keep you out of the bedrooms of the nation.

An hon. member: You are right where you belong.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Can we get on with the business of the House now? We will deal with these orders in accordance with the instructions as laid down this afternoon, dealing first of all with the first item.

Mr. Maeck had moved second reading of Bill 3. My first question is, shall there be a vote on this motion? Any members opposed to a vote must now rise.

Mr. Reid: Explain what you mean.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If there is any doubt about what I mean, this isn't voting against the bill necessarily. We are voting as to whether there will be a vote on the bill, and if 20 members rise we will not put it to a vote later. I will ask that question so that we are quite clear. Any members opposed to a vote must now rise. There are not 20, so this will be stacked—

Mr. Reid: There are 19 over there.

Mr. Speaker: —for the possible division. Yes, the first item will be sent to a vote.

The second item had to do with Bill 4. **Mr. Lawlor** had moved second reading of Bill 4. Again I will ask the question, shall there be a vote on this motion? Any members opposed to a vote must now rise.

Sufficient members having objected by standing, a vote was not taken on Bill 4.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have a matter to decide yet; there will be a vote on second reading of Bill 3. May I just remind

the members that this is a recorded vote, as I am sure most of you are aware; and, since the voting pattern may be divided in this or any of the other items on which we will vote in future, I would just remind the hon. members that they should in their turn rise and bow before they expect their name to be called. I just point that out because many people stand after their names are called. You'll have to stand first.

The House divided on **Mr. Maeck's** motion for second reading of Bill 3, which was approved on the following vote:

AYES	NAYS
Auld	Bain
Belanger	Bernier
Birch	Breaugh
Bryden	Breithaupt
Cassidy	Brunelle
Cunningham	Burr
Davidson	Conway
Davison	Deans
Drea	Di Santo
Dukszta	Eakins
Eaton	Ferris
Evans	Foulds
Ferrier	Good
Germa	Grande
Gregory	Hall
Grossman	Kerrio
Hodgson	Lawlor
Johnson	Mackenzie
Jones	Mancini
Kennedy	Martel
Lane	McClellan
Lewis	McKeough
MacBeth	McNeil
MacDonald	Miller, G. I.
Maeck	Newman, B.
Makarchuk	Nixon
McCague	Reed
McMurtry	Reid
Meen	Renwick
Miller, F. S.	Rhodes
Moffatt	Riddell
Morrow	Ruston
Newman, W.	Smith, R. S.
Norton	Stong
Parrott	Swart
Philip	Sweeney
Samis	Welch
Sandeman	Wells
Scrivener	Williams
Shore	Worton
Singer	Ziembra—41.
Smith, J. R.	
Stephenson	
Taylor	
Timbrell	
Villeneuve	

AYES

Warner
Wildman
Wiseman
Young—50.

Ayes 50; nays 41.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for standing committee.

Mr. Nixon: Don't tell me the Conservatives are going to keep us from voting on freedom of information.

Hon. Mr. Welch: While our attendance is at this level, Mr. Speaker, perhaps this would be the appropriate time to discuss the business of the House for next week; it will just take a minute.

On Monday of next week we have the concluding Throne Speech debate, with a vote Monday evening at 10:15. On Tuesday there will be legislation in the afternoon, and we'd like to serve notice that we'll call Bill 28 on Tuesday afternoon. Then at 8 p.m. the Treasurer of Ontario wants to have a brief word with us.

Mr. Martel: He probably won't have anything new to say.

Hon. Mr. Welch: On Wednesday of next week the resources development committee and the general government committee will

meet in the morning, with the resources development committee able to start consideration of estimates. The social development committee will meet in the afternoon and it also will be ready to start considering estimates.

On Thursday afternoon, of course, there will be debate on ballot item No. 3, the notice of motion by Mr. Singer, and on ballot item No. 4, Bill 10 standing in the name of Mr. Johnson.

On Thursday night, if required, we will continue second reading debate on Bill 28. Then we'll proceed with the bill introduced today by the Minister of Education dealing with the Essex school. On Friday we will continue with that legislation, if necessary, and if there is time, start second reading of Bill 26, the Act dealing with the proposed Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the government House leader would like to call the order of business for the evening?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The first order.

Clerk of the House: First order. Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

The House recessed at 6:05 p.m.

APPENDIX

(See page 419)

Answers to questions were tabled as follows:

1. Mr. Bounsall—Inquiry of the ministry:

Would the Ministry of Health indicate how many persons, who were suggested by the Memorial Society Association of Canada, and specifically, who are they, if any, have been appointed as the representatives of the public to the Board of Funeral Services and to the Funeral Services Review Board under The Funeral Services Act, 1976? Would the ministry indicate the background and interests of all appointees that qualify them to serve as public representatives on these specific boards, including any business or professional involvement with funeral directors in any province in Canada? Tabled March 29, 1977.

Answer by the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell):

On January 5, 1977, the Memorial Society Association of Canada, Hamilton, Ontario, sent us a letter naming three nominees for consideration to the Board of Funeral Services and the Funeral Services Review Board:

Mr. Fred P. Schneider,
344 Old Chicopee Drive,
Kitchener.

Mr. Eldon D. Weber,
106 Maplewood Place,
Kitchener.

Mr. Eric Gowen,
418 Oakdale Crescent,
Thunder Bay.

Many other names have been submitted to us for appointments to these boards but, as yet, no firm decisions as to the final selection of these boards has been made.

The composition of members to the Board of Funeral Services will comprise five funeral directors, one of whom is not licensed to establish and maintain and who does not direct the operation of a funeral services establishment, and three lay persons who are not licensees under the Act.

The Funeral Services Review Board will comprise three lay persons not licensees under the Act.

Consideration will also be given to ensure that there will be representation from all areas of the province.

3. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry:

Would each minister indicate the exact method that they use to monitor and control expenditures against budget allocations, and to monitor uncommitted funds? First tabled November 2, 1976. Tabled March 31, 1977.

Answer by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food:

Each branch director receives a monthly computer print-out showing: Budget allocation for the year; expenditure for the month; accumulated expenditure; unexpended budget, i.e. balance remaining at the month end; percentage of expenditure to budget.

This information is given separately for each sub-activity within the branch and is detailed into the various types of goods and services purchased, casual wages versus those of regular staff, et cetera. The reports are summarized and provided to the division heads for their information.

Each branch director is responsible for ensuring that his or her expenditure will not overrun budget allocation. Larger branches and institutions have on their staffs someone with accounting knowledge who assist in these determinations and accumulate the value of committed purchases. Smaller branches may not have this expertise and the budget officer in the accounts branch pays special attention to assist.

Towards the end of each fiscal year branch directors are required to submit monthly statements indicating projected over or under expenditure of budget allocations. These are considered by the ministry's administrative executive committee which consists of the deputy minister, division heads, and other senior staff.

If approval is given for an increased expenditure in a particular programme (in accordance with Management Board's rules) which is to be offset by an underspending elsewhere, the "budget allocations" on the monthly expenditure print-outs of the branches concerned are adjusted, i.e. the budget for the branch with the expanded programme will be increased and the branch that is to provide the offsetting funds will be reduced accordingly.

In a programme involving a large expenditure on grants, such as farm tax reduction, special reviews are necessary, bearing in mind that there is no pre-approved commitment as is the case with a purchase order for goods and services. In other words, the commitment to pay depends on receiving an application from a farmer. Thus, we have to rely on experience and monitor progress closely with the programme managers concerned.

Answer by the Ministry of the Attorney General:

The Ministry of the Attorney General utilises the concept of responsibility accounting, and separates the budget allocation to the ministry into cost collection centres which relate to identifiable management units.

Actual expenditures, as they are approved by the responsible managers, are charged to the cost collection centres concerned and a monthly report and analysis is made of significant differences between budgeted and actual spending.

Corrective action is taken to resolve variances; in the case of variances which indicate that underspending will occur, forecasted underspendings are reported to Management Board, through Treasury, for set-off against any forecasted overspendings.

Answer by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities:

1. Programme managers and/or branch directors are responsible for reviewing and updating cash flow forecasts each month as well as pre-authorizing actual expenditures.

2. An in-house computerized data entry system compares all proposed expenditure with the applicable budget. The system is programmed to warn of possible future overspending and to reject any actual overspending at the activity or executive control level.

3. The financial system provides finely detailed monthly information statements of current month and year-to-date expenditure totals and comparisons with budget forecasts. Explanations are required for any significant variances.

Answer by the Ministry of Community and Social Services:

Responsibility centres are established in accordance with legislative and operating requirements. Each responsibility centre manager is required pursuant to the Ministry Manual of Administration to approve commitments prior to their initiation by way of implementation or procurement. Procurement procedures are detailed in the manual and afford further opportunity for controls. A computerized allotment control system is used in the accounts branch on a daily basis. Individual items are tested at the vote and item or other appropriate control level.

The ministry produces monthly financial reports by responsibility centre. These allow for comparison to forecasts and allotments. They also lend themselves to update similar to accrual/commitment accounting by way of comparison of detailed disbursement listings to commitment records.

Aggregated financial reports of the same nature are prepared for review of managers at the divisional or other appropriate levels. The ministry's senior management carry out their responsibilities in monitoring and control through this process as well as other management processes of review and approval.

Answer by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations:

The ministry has three integrated systems in place to monitor and control appropriations and actual expenditures.

The first is a computerized financial reporting system which records actual expenditures and compares them with forecasts on a monthly and year-to-date basis. Programme heads are required to report monthly their explanations of significant over/underspending variances, including effects on level of service.

The second is a commitment control system which records costs of purchase orders and contracts for services against appropriations at the time the commitment is approved. When combined with recorded expenditures the ministry has a highly accurate financial position system on a day to day basis.

The third system deals with management performance reporting that allows an up to date comparison of costs and results, both planned and actual. With it the ministry can monitor programme performances and support the government's Managing By Results (MBR) programme.

Through the combined use of these systems the ministry has had advance warning of significant over/underspending variance and has been able to recommend re-allocation to cover unforeseen costs or has volunteered budget constraints to the Management Board.

Answer by the Ministry of Correctional Services:

Expenditures by vote and item are controlled and monitored in main office by the utilization of an internal accounting system which provides on a daily basis, budgets, year-to-date expenditures and funds unexpended.

Budgets are calendarized by cost centre at the beginning of each fiscal year. Monthly expenditure reports are forwarded to each cost centre. These reports detail expenditures for current month and year-to-date as well as indicate budget for year-to-date, variances, budget for year and amount unexpended.

These monthly reports are analysed by the budget section in main office and reasons obtained for unusual trends in expenditure patterns. A report on the financial position is presented monthly to a budget planning group by the budget accountant based on the above-mentioned analysis.

A budget status report is received from each cost centre by the 15th of the month following month end expenditure reports. Managers are asked to report on expenditure to date and estimated expenditures for the fiscal year with explanations of anticipated over or under expenditures. These are received on a quarterly basis for the first six months and monthly thereafter until the end of the fiscal year.

Answer by the Ministry of Culture and Recreation:

The Ministry of Culture and Recreation has an accounting and financial information system which provides budgetary control by programme, division, branch and unit.

The financial statements produced by the finance branch, are reviewed weekly with the programme managers responsible for each account, and continuous liaison is maintained on budgetary allocations and expenditure levels.

Answer by the Ministry of Education:

The method used to monitor and control expenditures against budget allocations, and to monitor uncommitted funds in this ministry consists of the following major elements:

1. At the start of each fiscal year when ministry budget allocations have been finalized, each branch director or responsibility centre manager prepares a monthly calendarization of projected expenditures.
2. Actual expenditures and commitments are entered into and recorded by the ministry financial information system. This is computer based.
3. Branch directors/responsibility centre managers are responsible for managing and controlling their expenditures against forecast. They are assisted by the financial information system which gives them figures for the month and year-to-date, comparing actual expenditures with forecast, and a supporting report gives long and short term commitments comparing those to total budget to show availability of unspent funds.
4. The facility exists in the system to reject any transactions which would overspend any allocations and this can be done to any desired level.
5. In addition to the above, the budget services branch summarizes and analyses the information in a concise report which goes to the deputy minister and the respective assistant deputy ministers as the basis for immediate corrective action as appropriate.

Answer by the Ministry of Energy:

Budgetary control is primarily the responsibility of programme managers who must ensure that the expenditure and commitment of funds are within the limits of their respective budget allocations. In a support capacity the accounts and office services branch of the ministry monitor, daily, actual expenditures vis-a-vis the budget allocations and conduct a monthly analysis of expenditures and expenditure trends.

Specifically the method is as follows:

1. At the end of each month the ministry's financial information system produces financial reports for the programme managers. These reports provide sufficient detail with regard to the budget allocations, actual expenditures to date, outstanding commitments to date, and residual funds available for the balance of the fiscal year, to enable the programme managers to exercise appropriate control over expenditures and budget allocations.

2. Simultaneously the accounts and office services branch analyse the reports and, in consultation with the programme managers, review the status of expenditures and budget allocations and project anticipated requirements for the balance of the fiscal year.

3. On an ongoing basis as part of the expenditure processing function the accounts and office services branch monitors all expenditures in relation to the budget allocations at the appropriate level (programme/activity; executive control). If budget allocations are reduced to a questionable level, if they are not being attended to as a result of items 1 and 2 above, the programme manager is advised and the matter addressed. The day-to-day monitoring process ensures that expenditure documentation is not processed if there are insufficient funds within the budget allocations.

Answer by the Ministry of the Environment:

In the Ministry of the Environment, the primary responsibility for monitoring and controlling an activity budget rests with the branch director. He is accountable for the budget performance of each activity under his direction. He is also responsible for reallocating any uncommitted funds in order to meet activity priorities.

The financial services branch provides a commitment and expenditure control for each activity within the ministry and a system has been developed to provide financial information to all levels of management within the ministry and to the central government agencies as required.

The system produces reports which reflect budgets, expenditures, outstanding commitments and uncommitted balances.

A "management report" which reflects the actual expenditures to date and the total requirements of an activity compared against the budget allocation is produced at regular intervals. This report forms the financial basis for any reallocation of uncommitted funds which may be necessary to meet ministry priority.

Answer by the Ministry of Government Services:

The ministry maintains a financial information system which reports monthly or more frequently:

- (i) The calendarized budget allocated to each responsibility centre;
- (ii) Actual expenditures for each responsibility centre and any variances; and
- (iii) The total expenditures for the Ministry compared to targets.

Each programme manager is responsible for continuous monitoring of the commitments made against his allocated budget and for taking immediate corrective action, as required.

An ongoing record of the actual expenditures and the unexpended balance is maintained for each appropriation.

Answer by the Ministry of Health:

The Ministry of Health uses the following process to monitor and control expenditures against budget allocations, and to monitor uncommitted funds;

1. Annually, projections are prepared by programme managers showing their monthly budget requirements for the ensuing fiscal year. These are then co-ordinated by the fiscal resources branch, which reviews them with the ministry's management committee prior to submission to Management Board.

2. During the year, monthly expenditure reports are provided to the programme managers, showing in detail, the accumulated expenditure for the year-to-date and the percentage of the annual estimate then expended. According to the complexity of the programme, supplementary records of expenditure commitments are maintained by individual programme managers.

3. Each month the fiscal resources branch prepares the financial information system report, which measures actual expenditure against forecasts and makes a re-forecast for the balance of the year. Explanations for significant variances are obtained from the operating branches.

4. A variance report is prepared and presented to the management committee of the ministry and a decision is taken at that time to reallocate funds, et cetera, as appropriate. Constraints proposed by Management Board are agreed to or an amended proposal is made to Management Board for consideration and acceptance.

5. Operating branches are advised by fiscal resources branch of the outcome of these deliberations.

Answer by the Ministry of Housing:

Expenditures are monitored and compared to budget allocations by a process of continual recording, reporting and comparing year-to-date expenditures to budgets. Reports issued at regular intervals inform ministry officials and operating personnel of moneys spent and unspent or committed and uncommitted to-date. All expenditures are governed by government-wide regulations and individual transactions are approved by authorized officials.

Answer by the Ministry of Industry and Tourism:

After Management Board has approved the estimates submitted by the ministry, each director provides a detailed breakdown. This detailed budget forms part of the ministry's monthly financial statements. At the same time, the directors submit an annual calendarization, which is an estimated cash flow of the funds that they control.

The monthly financial statements indicate the cumulative actual expenditures. Significant variances with the original calendarization are investigated and any necessary adjustments are made to revise the cash flow.

Answer by the Ministry of Labour:

This ministry uses a system of recording actual expenditures which, supplemented by an internal system of commitment accounting, permits us to record all purchase requisitions as they are received.

Although each branch head is responsible for expenditures incurred on his behalf, the budget section monitors all expenditures and commitments to ensure that the branch head is advised if it appears that the individual budget may be exceeded.

Answer by the Management Board of Cabinet:

Budgetary control is primarily the responsibility of programme managers who must ensure that the expenditure and commitment of funds are within the limits of their respective budget allocations. In a support capacity the accounts and office services branch of the ministry monitor, daily, actual expenditures vis a vis the budget allocations and conduct a monthly analysis of expenditures and expenditure trends.

Specifically the method is as follows:

1. At the end of each month the ministry's financial information system produces financial reports for the programme managers. These reports provide sufficient detail with regard to the budget allocations, actual expenditures to date, outstanding commitments to date, and residual funds available for the balance of the fiscal year, to enable the programme managers to exercise appropriate control over expenditures and budget allocations.

2. Simultaneously the accounts and office services branch analyse the reports and in consultation with the programme managers, review the status of expenditures and budget allocations and project anticipated requirements for the balance of the fiscal year.

3. On an ongoing basis as part of the expenditure processing function the accounts and office services branch monitors all expenditures in relation to the budget allocations at the appropriate level (programme/activity; executive control). If budget allocations are reduced to a questionable level, if they are not being attended to as a result of items 1 and 2 above, the programme manager is advised and the matter addressed. The day-to-day monitoring process ensures that expenditure documentation is not processed if there are insufficient funds within the budget allocations.

Answer by the Ministry of Natural Resources:

A computerized expenditure accounting system is employed by the financial management branch to report the information required at each level of administration for control purposes. Expenditures including accruals to date, as compared to budget forecasts are reported on a monthly basis to line managers.

The line manager has full responsibility for ensuring that his expenditures stay within budget and for taking whatever steps are necessary to meet the programme targets which were approved. It may be necessary from time to time to request reallocations of funding to meet these targets and, here also, responsibility rests with the line manager.

Reports showing the comparison of total ministry expenditures with expenditure forecasts are also generated for the purpose of appropriation control by the financial management branch budget officer and the Management Board Secretariat.

In addition the expenditure figures produced by the system are compared each month with the cash flow statements submitted to the Treasury division and any discrepancies are explained.

Answer by the Ministry of Northern Affairs:

The ministry uses accounting services provided by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications which records actual expenditures against its appropriations, and, in addition, maintains a number of accounting "sub-systems" and records, which include commitments, in order to provide financial information for budget control.

For control purposes, every programme manager is provided with a monthly statement, which highlights the original budget, estimated expenditures to date, actual expenditures to date and balance of funds available.

The ministry's overall budget is reviewed and monitored at the end of each month by senior management.

Answer by the Ministry of Revenue:

1. Each branch (or activity) within the ministry is allocated a definite portion of the estimates, i.e. its expenditure "ceiling".

2. Each branch prepares an "expenditure cash flow forecast" which portrays how its allocation is expected to be expended on a monthly basis for the coming fiscal year. The forecast not only provides detail by standard account classification but also by sub-item.

3. A branch statement of budget performance is produced for each month-end which reflects the budgeted expenditure versus the recorded expenditure and the variance, both on a monthly and year-to-date basis. In addition, this statement reflects the annual allocation, funds spent to date and uncommitted funds.

4. Shortly after the statements of budget performance are produced, the finance and policy planning group of the ministry reviews them with each branch manager with a view to monitoring and controlling their expenditure against budget allocation and to keep track of uncommitted funds.

Answer by the Ministry of the Solicitor General:

The Ministry of the Solicitor General uses a computerized financial reporting system to record financial information for the current month and year to date. This system also provides for the reporting of commitments which are deducted from unspent balances to show the funds available for further operations.

Within the ministry, each branch manager receives a monthly financial report listing actual expenditures and outstanding commitments for each expenditure classification. The branch manager has the primary responsibility to ensure that expenditures are kept within the funds budgeted for that expenditure classification. The financial services branch of the ministry monitors the reports and requests explanations for those items that are being expended at a rate greater than budgeted. It is also determined if savings can be effected on items that are being under-expended, considering the moneys spent and committed to date.

Answer by the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs:

Budgetary control is primarily the responsibility of programme managers who must ensure that the expenditure and commitment of funds are within the limits of their respective budget allocations. In a support capacity the accounts and office services branch of the ministry monitor, daily, actual expenditures vis-a-vis the budget allocations and conduct a monthly analysis of expenditures and expenditure trends.

Specifically the method is as follows:

1. At the end of each month the ministry's financial information system produces financial reports for the programme managers. These reports provide sufficient detail with regard

to the budget allocations, actual expenditures to date, outstanding commitments to date, and residual funds available for the balance of the fiscal year, to enable the programme managers to exercise appropriate allocations.

2. Simultaneously the accounts and office services branch analyse the reports and, in consultation with the programme managers, review the status of expenditures and budget allocations and project anticipated requirements for the balance of the fiscal year.

3. On an ongoing basis as part of the expenditure processing function the accounts and office services branch monitors all expenditures in relation to the budget allocations at the appropriate level (programme activity; executive control). If budget allocations are reduced to a questionable level, if they are not being attended to as a result of items 1 and 2 above, the programme manager is advised and the matter addressed. The day-to-day monitoring process ensures that expenditure documentation is not processed if there are insufficient funds within the budget allocations.

Answer by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications:

The ministry records actual expenditures against its appropriations, and in addition, maintains a number of accounting "sub-systems" and records, which include commitments, in order to provide financial information for budget control.

Provincial Roads and Transit Programmes: Individual districts and regions monitor relevant contracts and project expenditures individually and report monthly by means of a balance sheet which show allotments, current year expenditures, and an updated forecast of expenditures for the current and subsequent years.

The overall monitoring and control of expenditures against budget allocations, and identifying uncommitted funds is done by the priority development branch, and the financial branch.

All transit projects are pre-approved by the minister. Expenditures are monitored against the funds provided for this purpose in the ministry's annual estimates. The day-to-day control is in the hands of the agencies involved—ONTC and TATO.

Municipal Roads and Transit Programme: Method—Municipal bylaws and pre-approval by the minister.

Funds are committed against bylaws and pre-approvals within the limits of the funds appropriated for this purpose in the ministry's estimates.

All municipalities are required to submit quarterly financial statements which are analysed by the municipal branch.

Other Programmes: For control purposes every head office manager is provided with a monthly statement, which highlights the original budget, estimated expenditures to date, actual expenditures to date and balance of funds available.

The ministry's overall budget is received and monitored at the ministry's monthly finance committee meetings, through the FIS report to the Ministry of TEIGA and also with Management Board.

Answer by the Office of the Premier; The Cabinet Office; Provincial Secretariat for Justice; Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development; Provincial Secretariat for Social Development:

As the administration unit of the Premier's office has the responsibility for the control of expenditures this answer is made on behalf of the Premier's office, Cabinet office and provincial policy secretariats for Justice, Resources and Social Development.

The Premier's office, Cabinet office and policy secretariats being administrative in nature, the major portion of their budgets is for salaries and wages and employee benefits.

All purchase documents, service contracts and expense claims are approved by the deputy minister/deputy provincial secretary or authorized delegates against calendarized budgets. A senior official for each activity has the responsibility for the portion of the budget allotted. There is a central control in the Premier's office, Cabinet office and each of the secretariats providing information and monitoring functions.

At the close of each month a report is submitted from the administration unit of the Premier's office to each deputy minister, showing by standard accounts classification, current month expenditures, expenditures to date, appropriation and balance of unexpended funds.

Answer by the Minister Without Portfolio (Mr. Henderson):

I have an accounting system which is reviewed once a month. I am provided with actual expenditure on a monthly basis which is reviewed by members of my staff in my office.

4. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry:

Would the Minister of Industry and Tourism advise what percentage of equipment and materials utilized in the reconstruction and development of the Minaki Lodge complex originated in (a) Ontario, (b) other Canadian provinces, (c) the United States of America and, (d) other foreign countries?

Answer by the Ministry of Industry and Tourism:

Writs and statement of claim have been made regarding Minaki Lodge Resort Limited, and this matter is before the court. Therefore it is not considered appropriate at this time to reply to these questions.

5. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry:

Would the Minister of Industry and Tourism: 1. Please provide a complete breakdown of cost expenditures to date for Minaki Lodge; 2. the total number of man hours to date for the restoration of Minaki Lodge; 3. the home community and number of man hours worked to date by each individual on the Minaki site (whether the employee worked directly for a contractor, the Minaki board or the province of Ontario); 4. the names of all contractors, sub-contractors, consultants, and suppliers who have been associated for a fee with the restoration of Minaki Lodge; 5. the total amounts paid to each contractor, sub-contractor, consultant or supplier as listed in the answer to item (4) in this question; 6. the number, type and cost of all work that had to be re-done due to faulty workmanship, poor materials or inappropriate materials being used; 7. the amount of revenue that has been generated by Minaki Lodge since the government of Ontario assumed ownership; 8. the amount of revenue for each year for the ten years prior to the acquisition of Minaki Lodge by the province of Ontario; 9. the anticipated service area of the lodge in terms of potential guests; 10. the present operating cost of Minaki Lodge; 11. the anticipated operating cost for Minaki Lodge should it ever be completed and operated by the province of Ontario; 12. the present market value of Minaki Lodge; 13. when and if completed under what terms will it be operated by the province of Ontario, or some other outside party; 14. the number of native Canadians employed in the restoration and maintenance of Minaki Lodge and the total number of man hours worked; and 15. how much long term employment will be created for the native Canadians?

Answer by the Ministry of Industry and Tourism:

Writs and statement of claim have been made regarding Minaki Lodge Resort Limited, and this matter is before the court. Therefore it is not considered appropriate at this time to reply to this question.

16. Mr. Ziemba—Inquiry of the ministry:

Would the Minister of Revenue indicate the amount of retail tax revenue 60 days and more in arrears and why this amount has not been collected? Tabled March 31, 1977.

Answer by the Minister of Revenue (Mrs. Scrivener):

The amount of retail sales tax assessed revenue outstanding over 71 days* and under active collection was \$5,621,778.00 at February 28, 1977. The above amount represents 0.31% of twelve months' revenue of \$1.8 billion.

The above amount does not include accounts which are in the process of appeal, bankrupt estates or amounts that have been otherwise identified as uncollectable.

Amounts remain uncollected due generally to the taxpayer's current financial circumstances and my ministry's collection policy is to make collection arrangements which safeguard against loss of tax revenue while permitting the taxpayer to continue his business operations wherever possible.

17. Mrs. Campbell—Inquiry of the ministry:

Will the Ministry of Health table its audit of Browndale (Ontario) and all pertinent material gathered in the course of that audit? (Notice of Motion for a Return on this subject tabled October 28, 1976). Tabled March 31, 1977.

Answer by the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell):

The former Minister of Health, the Hon. Frank S. Miller, wrote to Dr. Stuart Smith on July 20, 1976, and again on September 16, 1976, stating that it has never been the policy of this Ministry to release working papers respecting any audits performed by our internal audit staff.

I support this position, and reiterate that in the accounting profession and in the audit practices of the Provincial Auditor it has never been the policy to release working papers of an audit. With respect to the position of the Provincial Auditor I refer you to the debates of March, 1970, relative to a request from Mr. Singer for a copy of a specific audit report and to a similar request in 1974 of the Provincial Auditor from Mr. Sargent. In both cases, the Speaker upheld the Provincial Auditor and the individual audit reports were not provided.

19. Mrs. Campbell—Inquiry of the ministry:

Will the Provincial Secretary for Social Development table the following reports and studies of the Council on Troubled Children and Youth: 1. Report on Young Persons in Conflict with the Law; 2. Study of children's mental health services in northeastern Ontario; 3. Study of psychological services for disturbed children in Ontario; 4. Study of school board programme involving psychiatrists; 5. Study of the NYIAC; 6. Report of the review of existing legislation; 7. Study of various funding arrangements under each Act; 8. Statistical data from the council survey; 9. Report on the implications of the repeal of section 8; 10. Report on research and development within each ministry; 11. The proposal for interministerial research and development? Tabled March 31, 1977.

Answer by the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch):

It appears that the question arises from matters discussed in the Annual Review of the Interministerial Council for Emotionally Disturbed Children and Youth, dated July, 1976.

Some of the items cited in the question do not exist in the form of a written report; others are in the form of Cabinet submissions or internal communications and, therefore, will not be made available. Final reports are not available for certain tasks which are still in progress.

Following are notes with reference to specific parts of the question:

1. Report on Young Persons in Conflict with the Law: This was a response from the Council for Troubled Children and Youth made at the request of an interministerial committee established by the Provincial Secretary for Justice. The committee was assigned responsibility for the co-ordination of the Ontario response to the federal government's proposals for new legislations to replace The Juvenile Delinquents Act.

Comments raised by the council were incorporated into the official response which is now a public document available through the office of the Provincial Secretary for Justice, and which was provided as a background document during the estimates of the Justice Policy Secretariat in November of 1976.

2. Study of Children's Mental Health Services for Disturbed Children in Northeastern Ontario: In an internal communication, the council provided comments to the Ministry of Health concerning mental health services for children in northeastern Ontario.

This is now part of an ongoing study, referred to below in number 3.

3. Study of Psychological Services for Disturbed Children in Ontario: The council has been directed by the Cabinet Committee on Social Development to review the provision of psychiatric, psychological, social work, and related support services to school boards. This work is in progress.

4. Study of School Board Programmes Involving Psychiatrists: The council was requested to review a pilot project involving the provision of psychiatric services to school boards. Its report took the form of a submission to the Cabinet Committee on Social Development.

5. Study of the North York Interagency Council: This is a current research project under the auspices of the contractual research programme of the Ministry of Education.

The study is being carried out by Environics Research Groups Limited under a contract running from September, 1976 to August 31, 1977.

6. Report of the Review of Existing Legislation; 7. Study of the Various Funding Arrangements under each Act; 8. Statistical Data from the Council Survey.

Questions 6, 7, and 8 are related and may best be commented on together.

One of the first tasks undertaken by the council was to become as fully aware as possible of existing programmes and services for emotionally disturbed children. This was undertaken in two ways:

- (a) A review of existing legislation, characteristics, funding arrangements and distribution of services; and
- (b) A survey of over 400 facilities, agencies and societies which offer a provincially supported service to disturbed children.

The results were utilized in compiling the Directory of Services for Troubled Children which was published in December, 1976, and in Cabinet submissions leading to the recently announced decision to consolidate elements of children's services into one ministry.

9. Report of the Implications of the Repeal of Section 8: This document was a submission to the Cabinet Committee on Social Development, containing policy options with regard to the repeal of section 8 of The Training Schools Act.

10. Report on research and development within each ministry; 11. The Proposal for Interministerial Research and Development: There is no formal written report on research and development within each ministry. During a series of meetings, the council discussed possible mechanisms for interministerial research with researchers in the Ministries of Health, Education, and Correctional Services.

As a result, a Cabinet submission is being prepared.

2. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry:

Would the Minister of Government Services list the previous owners of all property purchased by the government of Ontario in the ridings of Fort William and Port Arthur in the last 15 years, including all properties purchased by provincial corporations; and would the minister indicate the common and legal name or description of the property Old Fort William, Consolidated Government Building, et cetera; the purchase price each time it changed hands during the last 15 years; the name(s) of the realtor(s) who handled the transactions; and the order of sale leading up to the purchase by the province of Ontario? Finally, would the minister indicate the reason for purchase by the province and specify whether expropriation procedures were used to obtain the property? Tabled March 31, 1977.

Interim answer by the Minister of Government Services (Mr. J. R. Smith):

A complete answer to the question will necessitate contacting all ministries, agencies, boards and commissions to obtain the pertinent information. Since the complete answer cannot be obtained within the 14 calendar day limit, this interim answer serves notice that the complete answer will be forthcoming as soon as the information has been obtained and compiled.

6. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry:

Would the Minister of Housing table a list of all land purchased by or for the Ministry of Housing or the Ontario Housing Corporation which is as yet undeveloped; would the minister list each property by community, legal description, common name or address, the names of the last three (3) owners, date(s) that title changed hands, the purchase prices, the realtor(s), and the fees paid? Tabled March 31, 1977.

Interim answer by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes):

The answer to the above-noted question will be time consuming to prepare. My staff are presently working on the response and upon completion, I will forward the answer to you.

7. Mr. Cunningham—Inquiry of the ministry:

Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation an itemized list of all sales and dollar value of sales of the UTDC to date, and table such information in the House? Tabled March 31, 1977.

8. Mr. Cunningham—Inquiry of the ministry:

Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation estimates of noise level from ICTS, vehicles at various distances in comparison with CLRV or any advance light rail system, e.g. Boeing Vertol, and table such information in the House? Tabled March 31, 1977.

9. Mr. Cunningham—Inquiry of the ministry:

Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation estimates of power consumption by ICTS vehicles in normal operation as compared with power consumption of a PCC-TTC vehicle and the CLRV and table such information in the House. Tabled March 31, 1977.

10. Mr. Cunningham—Inquiry of the ministry:

Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation operating costs estimates of ICTS operating commercially with and without automation, and table such information in the House? Tabled March 31, 1977.

11. Mr. Cunningham—Inquiry of the ministry:

Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation an itemized breakdown of the budget for the three-year ICTS and LRV testing programme and the means by which this venture is being funded, and table such information in the House? Tabled March 31, 1977.

12. Mr. Cunningham—Inquiry of the ministry:

Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation capital cost estimates for one mile of ICTS operating commercially at grade, below grade and elevated, broken down into component parts (e.g. station costs, guideway costs, vehicle costs, etcetera and table such information in the House? Tabled March 31, 1977.

13. Mr. Cunningham—Inquiry of the ministry:

Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation an itemized breakdown of the estimated costs associated with the test track facility near Kingston and actual expenditures to date, and table such information in the House? Tabled March 31, 1977.

14. Mr. Cunningham—Inquiry of the ministry:

Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation a list of senior personnel and their salaries and benefits, and table such information in the House? Tabled March 31, 1977.

Interim answer by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications:

On Thursday, March 31, 1977, the Member for Wentworth North tabled eight questions on the order paper, numbered 7 through 14, related to the activities of the Urban Transit Development Corporation.

Because of the extent and complexity of the information requested, the minister has indicated that more time will be required in order to provide responses.

15. Mr. Nixon—Inquiry of the ministry:

1. What are the names of the individuals, and corporations if any, which have made donations to the Ontario Heritage Foundations; 2. What is the nature and value of the individual donations and how was each evaluation arrived at? Tabled March 31, 1977.

Answer by the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Welch):

Pursuant to the motion carried in the House, December 16, 1976, 10b, please be advised that an extension will be required to fully prepare an answer to this question.

18. Mrs. Campbell—Inquiry of the ministry:

Will the Ministry of Health table a list of properties purchased with public funds by Browndale (Ontario) for use in their treatment programme, the price paid for these properties

and their previous owner and will the ministry provide the House with the legislative authority which permits this expenditure?

Interim answer by the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell):

I will table a list of properties leased, rented or purchased by Browndale for use in their treatment programme, and whatever other information I have regarding the price paid for these properties. I will be unable to provide information which we do not have within the Ministry of Health and to which I do not have access. I am prepared to indicate in my answer the areas where there is a lack of information.

20. Mr. Eakins—Inquiry of the ministry:

Will the Ministry of Health table a list of all properties leased, rented or purchased by Browndale (Ontario) with public money; the value of such property; the present owner; the previous owner; and the rent and terms of rent for each property where applicable? (Notice of Motion for a Return on this subject tabled October 28, 1976). Tabled March 31, 1977.

Interim answer by the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell):

I will table a list of all properties leased, rented or purchased by Browndale with public money, and the present owners, but I will be unable to provide information which I do not have, or to which I do not have access. I will be indicating the information which I do not have in my answer.

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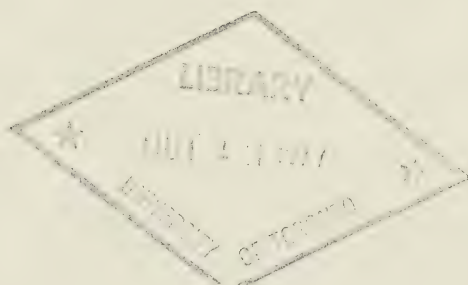


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Official Report (Hansard)
Daily Edition



Fourth Session, 30th Parliament

Thursday, April 14, 1977

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1977

The House resumed at 8:05 p.m.

Mr. Speaker called for the quorum bells.

On resumption:

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Mr. Speaker: When we were last on this item of business the hon. member for Grey-Bruce, I believe, was about to begin his remarks. He may continue.

Mr. Moffatt: Nobody is here, Eddie.

Mr. Sargent: Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you all for coming tonight; a very intelligent-looking group—better than usual over there.

Mr. Nixon: Got to get a handful of Tories in.

Mr. Sargent: I had to ring the bells on the advice of Bob Nixon. He said, "We can't speak to a poor crowd like that." So, we are in business now.

Interjection.

Mr. Sargent: I must confess that at the start of this session the polls gave our party a very sad outlook. How wrong they were; how things are developing now.

An hon. member: Look at them quiver.

Mr. Sargent: But the amazing part of that was that we have a very aggressive member from Niagara Falls, Vince Kerrio, here in our midst. He had a dream, and the dream was that the polls were flying across the province—the dream was that there was an election held thereabouts—and the vote came down. There were 62 Tories elected and 62 NDP elected and one Liberal. And that Liberal was Vince. And when he set out for the first sitting of the House, he found that Bill Davis had sent a liveried chauffeur and limousine. Stephen Lewis sent down Ian Deans to work for Vince. When he walked into the House, Bill Davis walked to the door and he met him and took him across to the seat, put his arm around him and said, "Now, Vince what are we going to do today?"

I thought the balance of power was so flagrant at that time. The Tories are now being nice to our friends on the right here. They are in bed with them already—trying to stay in power.

All these years I have been standing in this House speaking—flogging the government as I think I am doing, doing my part as a loyal member of Her Majesty's opposition—for this one time, instead of saying what is wrong with the government, I thought I would talk about what is right with the government.

Mr. Nixon: Short speech tonight.

Mr. Sargent: How right Bob is, how right.

An hon. member: Are you sitting down—are you?

Mr. Moffatt: You have just heard it. Margaret, move over.

Mr. Sargent: But without sitting down right now, I want to tell you that I sat down without my speech writer and I looked at the paper for a long time and I couldn't get started. What is right about this government? So I have to change my course, right now. I want to say that I have the greatest respect for the members of the House, individually; I really do. My remarks across there may not be to your liking, but I want to say—I have said this to fellows in our caucus—that each and every one of you is a success. A lot of people think that because you are elected to Parliament, you are a success. That is not a fact. You were a success before you were elected to Parliament and from here on it is downhill. I want to say to each and all of us in this House, as Ella Wheeler Wilcox said:

"... the two kinds of people on earth I mean/Are the people who lift and the people who lean."

[8:15]

I think each of us individually are lifters and I qualify those remarks before I start because I do have the greatest respect for us individually.

The things I'd like to talk about are naturally the hospital in Owen Sound, the

plight of the beef farmer, Australian beef, losing a \$40-million industry in Owen Sound coming up, the great tragedy of youth unemployment, the great costs in the north and west, the Gray Coach Line, the police brutality, Hydro corridors and the question of whether or not the government has the press in its pocket.

Mr. Nixon: Let's start with that one.

Mr. Sargent: We've been watching newspaper reports and our critics have been following the land acquisition in Barrie—a case of three lawyers: Eddie Goodman, a close friend and adviser to the Premier, the law partner of the Premier, and Bob Macaulay, who recently has been retained as a counsel for the Minister of Energy at \$1,000 a day. These three lawyers are involved in a deal. It's about a \$100-million land deal and by some magic stroke of fate we have these three fellows close to the Premier who are putting together this deal.

If one looks in the phone book in Ontario, one will find about 10,000 lawyers. It's amazing that these three chaps who are so close to the Premier are steering this deal. I'm not going to go into the ramifications of Macaulay or Eddie Goodman in the continuing saga. We'll get on with that later. That comes in the good part of the speech.

Mr. Deans: Go ahead.

Mr. Sargent: I want to say that it must be embarrassing to the members opposite how these things are allowed to happen. I want to qualify what I'm going to say. I've never questioned at this time and place the integrity of the Premier of this province. He has a political machine that has to be and has been well greased over the years and will continue to demand its cut, a piece of the action. I say as long as the Premier is head of this party and allows the big guns to wheel and deal, to have the keys to the treasury per se or whatever, he has to take his part of the blame for allowing these things to happen. In the States it's a criminal offence to sell a political contract and in this country it has been going on blatantly.

We have a great need in my area for housing for our citizens. It's a sad commentary that the majority of Canadians will never own their own home. As I've said before, Ontario housing is so restricted that no one is allowed to build in this most wealthy country in the whole world a house that he can afford. Now let that sink in. This party over here with all its power and all the billions of dollars it collects every year cannot make it right that a

man can build a house that he can afford. What kind of democracy do we live in?

We heard the other night the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) read a prepared speech written by a speech writer. He never deviated from his speech. He reminds me of an old English politician who said, "I find that your lordship has changed his politics."

"Yes," his lordship replied, "and I am ready to change again if you can make it worth my while."

Political opportunism is what is happening. There are many of us in this party who could be bribed to go to that party if we wanted to, but we have to live with ourselves. These are some of the things that—

Mr. Foulds: Would you repeat that, Eddie?

Mr. Sargent: Well, you'll probably get some offers along the way too, Jimmy.

Mr. Moffatt: This is interesting. I like this.

An hon. member: He said reflex.

Mr. Sargent: In our economy a great majority of the people never own a home. That's happening right now, today. We have thousands and thousands of beef farmers wondering whether next year the prices will be enough to meet their mortgage needs. That's happening right now. We have the shocking situation of half a million young Canadians under the age of 25 who cannot get jobs—and this government here in Ontario is doing nothing about it.

Mr. McNeil: What are your friends in Ottawa doing about it?

Mr. Sargent: You're so right, Ronny. There's a great need. But we should have some leadership here. We are the wealthiest province. We have 65,000 civil servants in this province and we could well get along with 45,000. In New York, the city found itself with a deficit of \$1½ billion—and down there they can't have hanky-pank like you fellows and have a continuing deficit of \$2 billion a year. They had to clean up their act down there and they fired 60,000 people in the city of New York in one year. They fired 60,000 people to keep the books straight, and that is a fact.

Here we have Hydro—Hydro belongs to the people—raising the rates by 30 per cent. That's happening right now.

Now we get on to things that are important to all of us, the rights of people as far as the law is concerned. We've been watching Mr. Headline, the Attorney General,

in his battles with Mr. Ballard, a great sports jock. In my mind Mr. McMurtry is the biggest athletic supporter I've ever known. I'm glad the cubs have left for that one.

Mr. Moffatt: You've told a few, Eddie.

Mr. Sargent: We have here the hopeless situation in our jails and prisons. The morale is bad in all our jails and our penitentiaries. In the States they find that by paying the inmates 75 cents to \$1 per hour to produce and learn a trade, the morale is high and it's great for the rehabilitation of their jails. It's a matter of record that the county jails, the Don Jail, are a disgrace in our economy. In Owen Sound the county jail has cells about eight feet by three feet and when one gets on the bed one can't turn around. There are no lights in those cells from 8 o'clock at night until the morning.

Mr. Peterson: How do you know, Eddie?

Mr. Sargent: Well, I could have been an inmate one time, but I have been inspecting them. The new minister said he was going to have a programme to upgrade these jails, but we know that's just talk, because he's on his way out.

We have the news that yesterday a cop shot a fleeing man because he was suspected of having a stolen credit card. Why would a policeman shoot in the back a man he thought had a stolen credit card? Credit cards are only money-making schemes for the banks, and who are we to say that a policeman can shoot a man in the back because he has a stolen credit card? That's what's going on in this so-called police state we have here in Ontario. I for one, having spent a lifetime in politics, am fed up with what's going on. If policemen can't handle their guns take their guns away from them.

Police brutality: We read in the papers last week of how the police took a man into a field and beat him up, then followed him to his home and beat him up with his wife and family there. I say it's a scandalous abuse of the badge, a scandalous abuse of the badge. It's no credit to the Attorney General or to those fellows over there that they allow these things to happen.

One time a few years ago—this is a true story that happened to me—I was out for a walk one night, on a Wednesday night when the House wasn't sitting. I went out for a walk and I didn't have my wallet with me but I had a credit card in my jacket. Going past a radio store on Bloor Street, I saw a radio in the window that I liked. I went in and said: "How much is that?"

He said: "About \$85."

I said: "Okay, I'll take it." I had forgotten that I had this credit card in my pocket; I had a number of them. I had reported that I had lost that card about a couple of weeks before that.

So, I gave him my credit card to buy it and it was a long time before he came back to me. A few minutes later two policemen walked in the door and they said: "What's your name?"

I told them my name.

They said: "You'd better come with us." To make a long story short, they took me to the police station and kept me there for three hours. I found some friends down there!

The way they treated me, I just sat there and wondered what the hell would have happened if I had really done something. I wasn't allowed to get off the chair. I couldn't walk around and look at the pictures on the wall. When they had me walk along they held my cuffs down like that. They treat people like dogs. That's the police system and the police state we have in this province. Finally, they took me back to see my hotel room. First of all, they asked me how I could afford all the stuff that I had there.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You were a suspicious character.

Mr. Sargent: I didn't tell them I was a member of the opposition. I should have told them I was a member of the front row over there. All over stolen credit cards there is police brutality in here.

I think about Mr. McMurtry. He has no creative approach to the job he is charged with. I have a long line of things that he should be doing in courtroom procedure, that great backlog in our courts. It's a disgrace.

Getting to the main theme of what we're talking about today, because of the period of unprecedented waste and the plundering of the public treasury in the past seven to 10 years, we've seen our debts climb from \$2.5 billion to \$11.8 billion tonight—about \$9 billion in about five to six years.

Mr. Ruston: All during Davis's time.

Mr. Sargent: That is correct, in a time when the provinces in western Canada are debt free. The state of Illinois was \$60 million over last year; they've picked it up and they're budgeting for a surplus. But here we are—

Mr. McNeil: Even your own members are leaving now, Eddie.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: What are your friends in Ottawa doing now?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Grey-Bruce has the floor.

Mr. Sargent: You can go any time you want, Ron. I wouldn't miss you a bit.

An hon. member: We'll be calling for a quorum, Mr. Speaker!

Mr. Sargent: Ronnie is one of my fellow collegians—or fellow colleagues, I think.

An hon. member: They both graduated from the same school.

Mr. Sargent: The Premier says we're going to have to have strong fiscal discipline and Mr. McKeough brings up this malarkey about how he agrees with Ottawa—

Mr. Speaker: I'd remind the hon. member to refer to the members by their riding and not by their personal names, please. Thank you.

Mr. Moffatt: He is a rookie.

Mr. Good: You should be glad he said "Mr."

Mr. Speaker: He's still out of order.

Mr. Sargent: Yes, the Duke of Kent.

They don't call it a deficit any more. They call it net cash requirements.

Mr. Ruston: A shortfall.

Mr. Sargent: A shortfall. And, believe me, it's beautiful what they have in this current statement as of last week. They've raided the Canada Pension fund. There's not a nickel left in it. There's \$850 million taken from there this year. From the teachers' superannuation fund, there is \$330 million this year; there is \$119 million left in that one. In the municipal employees' retirement fund there was \$180 million; it's all gone. They even have gone so far as to take the \$34 million of a Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation fund.

We have here the total budgetary expenditure for this year. They're going to collect \$11.8 billion to pay their creditors.

[8:30]

So you'll be glad to know, Mr. Speaker, that our auditors have come up with a workable solution to our cash flow problems. It is called bankruptcy. Would you believe this, Mr. Speaker, that you and I and the taxpayers of this province are paying about \$3

million every working day in interest on the debt we owe—\$3 million every working day. By the time this speech is over, we will have paid possibly another \$100,000 interest on the debt we owe.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Stop talking, it costs money.

Mr. Peterson: It is worth it listening to you, Eddie.

Mr. Sargent: It is worth it. Thank you, David. We'll make you a Liberal senator.

Well, the Toronto Star doesn't like what Mr. McKeough is doing. They will go just so far about this government and then they will stop. But Mr. McKeough says he won't put into force the taxation reform, while, according to the Star, more than 400,000 Metro residents who live in apartments are going to have to pay more than their fair share of property tax this year just as they have in the past 25 years. Mr. McKeough admits the system is almost rotten, but the shameful thing is that the Blair commission gave everyone a chance in this province to have input here and it is very sorely needed.

Mr. Ferris: When they got it, they threw it away.

Mr. Sargent: But Mr. McKeough says that he will not. He said it would be folly. He is quoted as saying: "It wouldn't be good politics to bring this reform in before the election." We don't know how much money this is going to cost us as taxpayers to stall this reform. Is it going to cost half a billion dollars or a billion dollars more in inequitable taxes?

We don't know that, but we do know that he will do anything in the election to get votes. He took \$149 million of our money in the Spadina Expressway, using money of ours to buy votes. He spent \$85 million of our money for the first-time home owners' grants. There was the new car rebate, and he reduced the sales tax from seven to five per cent. Immediately after the election he put these things back on again, but it cost us hundreds of millions of dollars last election just to buy votes for the party.

Regarding jobs, we are all concerned about them. But the only response of Mr. McKeough, the member for Chatham-Kent, to the Leader of the Opposition, who questioned him about the lack of jobs in his Throne Speech, was to attack the Leader of the Opposition for what's going on in Britain. He couldn't talk about the situation in Ontario; he talked about what is going on in Britain.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that in the budget next week there will be no answer for jobs, but his budget will, I bet, have a tax cut for the corporate group—a help to big business but no meaningful crash programme for jobs.

This headline in the *Toronto Star*: "Unemployment Hits Record High." This is war. This is war for a man who has a family and no job. It is not important to the bureaucrats in Ottawa or Queen's Park that a man has no job. That is not important, but if the bureaucrats were threatened with being without a job, it would be war. In the times of war we have war bond programmes to raise money to fight the war. In times of peace, when there are no jobs and no employment, we should have prosperity and peace bonds to raise money to do a crash programme for people. People own this government in this province, and as I said today, not the Tory party. But how do we get that across to the people of Ontario? So if only bureaucrats would call this an emergency, they would find some way to fight this terrible tragedy.

In discussing the first-time home owner's grants in this House, the then Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen) stood up and he said, "There is about \$12 million we can't collect." And they had almost decided not to bother collecting it. The shocking thing was, he was going to let that \$12 million go down the drain because it had been part of a political chicanery to buy votes and they were going to wash it out.

But here they're going to close four hospitals in Jack Riddell's riding, in Bob McKesock's riding and in my riding, to gain \$10 million or \$12 million, but they're going to wash out \$12 million over there.

Mr. Mackenzie: All Liberal ridings, Eddie.

Mr. Sargent: Unfortunately, Bobby, yes. It reminds me of the then Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen) and the current Minister of Revenue (Mrs. Scrivener)! the intelligence they give this House is amazing.

It reminds me of a story about a fellow who called a company one Saturday afternoon and he asked the janitor a number of questions. The janitor couldn't answer any of the questions and when the fellow said, "Don't you know anything about the business?" the man said, "Mister, when I said 'hello' I told you all I know."

That's about the same type of intelligence you get from those two ministers over there. You ask them a question and they blather something at you and sit down in their seat and try to hide. And they're paying them \$40,000 a year.

Every so often, Mr. Davis recycles the front bench there for their incompetence in the job they're doing and so he puts them into another department so they can screw that up too. Is it any wonder that Dick Rohmer said—I'm not looking at you, Leo, it's all right.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Thank you, Eddie, you are very charitable tonight.

Mr. Moffatt: They can't recycle him any more. He is a non-returnable container now.

Mr. B. Newman: You can sit easily there.

Mr. Sargent: They tell me they're going to put your new office in Minaki, is that right?

Mr. Ruston: They're going to stuff him and hang him over the fireplace.

Mr. B. Newman: It's going to be the western wing of the Ontario Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: How can things be so good and so bad at the same time?

Mr. Sargent: Is it any wonder that Dick Rohmer, the novelist, says that in Queen's Park the civil servants laugh at the cabinet ministers? They run their own show regardless of the cabinet—I know this is a fact. It's bureaucracy in full flight here.

I brought in a bill called Lifeline—a private member's bill that never saw the light of day. It was going to base the use of electricity on a use basis. I couldn't even distribute the bills to the members' desks across the House; that's the free press we have here.

In Owen Sound we have in full flight the branch plant economy; all our plants are American firms and they're closing down progressively. Canadian Pittsburgh are phasing out a \$20-million plant and they have to build a \$40-million plant for new technology. We're faced with the fact of losing this plant that will have 400 people out of work, millions of dollars' worth of services down the drain and about 400 homes where mortgages will go down the drain too.

We're faced with the fact that in New York state, when Volkswagen were going to relocate, New York gave Volkswagen \$70 million to relocate in New York state. We're faced with the fact that Canadian Pittsburgh are going to be offered some lucrative sum to locate in New York state, and, even with the tariffs, they'll be farther ahead. We can't get five cents' worth of co-operation from the Ministry of Industry and Tourism here. That's the

plight of geography and of my being a member of the Liberal opposition.

With regard to Industry and Tourism, we have the case of Minaki Lodge, a firm with total assests of \$1.25 million. This ministry gave it a \$5-million loan because it's headed up by a few Tories. The "jewel of the north" is what they call it.

I have some problems in my area. We have a lot of truck drivers there and truck drivers are faced now with having a new medical and it's costing them about \$25 to \$30 per medical. In this province there are hundreds of thousands of truck drivers, and they're faced with the same problem. This Ministry of Health could let them have a medical through OHIP, but the Ministry of Transportation and Communications is doing nothing about it. These people aren't important; they aren't big wheels in the economy, that's why they don't get recognition.

We have blatant disregard of people's rights in the hydro corridor takeovers, and I suggest that before Ontario Hydro can begin any expropriation proceedings whatsoever, an independent, unbiased study must be done by someone with no axe to grind. Further, we believe the above study must include all realistic and alternative means and routes to get the power from the generating stations to the load supply centres at which it may be used. One wouldn't believe what this is doing to the farmers in my part of the country.

We all know the sorry state of hospitals in Owen Sound. We have the great area hospital there, and we have the finest set of specialists and surgeons and doctors in the country there. They have now closed down our nursing school there, and we have to take our food and our garbage up in the same elevator. Most times we have 300 or 400 people waiting for elective surgery, our halls are full of patients, and I can't get any action from this government and I guess I never will.

But on the other hand, they were trying to close the Durham and Chesley hospital and others there, and they came up in the estimates that they increased the payments for labs last year from \$35 million to \$70 million—and no one knew why this was the case. A 100 per cent increase in payments to labs—but he wants to close our hospitals to save \$12 million or \$15 million or \$40 million.

We in Bruce have the greatest agricultural and beef producing area in Canada, but our farmers are in real trouble. There's a story that a farmer and a tax accountant

are sitting down and the accountant comes and makes out the farmer's tax form. He asks, "Does your wife work the farm?"

"Yes, she does," says the farmer.

"The children?"

"Yes, them too."

"And is there a hired hand?"

"Yes, there is."

"Anybody else?"

"Well, yes, as a matter of fact we keep a halfwit about the place."

"A halfwit?" says the accountant. "What does he do?"

"Do?" says the farmer. "Why, he owns the place."

Mr. McCague: He has an investment with no return.

Mr. Ruston: That was like the fellow who won a million, Eddie, who was going to keep farming until he lost it all.

Mr. Sargent: Right, exactly. If farmers ever get organized, all hell's going to break loose for the government. The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) should resign. In the case of the advice to the Essex Packers people, it's unbelievable that they could pay that man the money they're paying him. He's supposed to know the answers, and he doesn't even know how to add two and two. It's unbelievable.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: He's a real defender of the farmer in the province, and don't forget it. The farmers know they have got a friend.

Mr. Mackenzie: Oh, come on, Leo. Just like the north has a friend in you.

Mr. Sargent: You should hear what they say about you.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That's another story.

Mr. Sargent: The farmers don't get paid any statutory holidays, overtime pay, they don't get unemployment insurance, they have child labour—they even legislate school closing so that kids can work on the harvesting. Families all work; there's only one pay cheque. Farmers don't realize their rights today. They have a general acceptance that this is the way it's always been and always will be.

I'm more convinced than ever that the farmer is the biggest gambler in the world. Anybody in the business world today knows the selling price of his goods before he starts to produce them. But in agriculture there's

no way to know this. Many of our beef cattle people are driving their cattle to the market and taking what they can get for them, because they can't afford to take them home and feed them. Now that's a fact.

I'm further convinced that the farmer is the only man in our economy who pays retail price for everything that he buys and sells everything at wholesale and pays the freight both ways. I suggest the farmer deserves every penny he makes. A man does not get up at 5 a.m. just because he wants to socialize with his Holsteins. The farmer works a 12-hour to 16-hour day, 365 days a year with no sick leave.

[8:45]

I want to get across the fact that the consumer is the big focal point. They're concerned about what the poor consumer has to pay for his food. It's about time the people of this country got down on their knees and gave thanks for the bountiful supply of food available to them in this country.

A farmer doesn't get any holidays—he doesn't even get Christmas Day off. The farmer is at the mercy of the marketing boards, the auction block and the stock market. The wives and the children of the farmers work their knuckles to the bone. They carry 50-pound bales of hay, lift 100-pound sacks of grain, clean up the manure, fight the cows and the calves and drive tractors. All this labour is done without any pay to the farmer or his family for their time and effort. They face plague, disease, drought, flood, frosts and parasites, and they've got to deal with Hydro too.

An hon. member: That's the worst.

Mrs. Campbell: That's the most unkindest cut of all.

Mr. Sargent: Credit's extended to the fullest extent and debt is a way of life for a farmer today.

I'm concerned about education for our kids. Of the one million unemployed, as I said before, 500,000 are under age 25. We are spending literally millions of dollars, as the members know by our budgets here on education, but nothing—not a cent—to provide jobs for them when they graduate. We have a great mismatch, I submit, between the labour market demands and the skills possessed by the current job seekers. They just can't cope; they haven't got the training to go into the marketplace to get jobs. We have exotic courses. High schools no longer

prepare students for employment as they once did. Instead they increasingly offer survey courses which only scratch the surface. I believe the job of the school is to teach people how to learn so the kids can later equip themselves, and our school system is not doing this.

We have a great inequity up our way with Dutch Christian schools. The Dutch Christian family is paying about \$2,000 a family to educate its child in a Dutch Christian school. It's paying about \$50 a month for transportation for that child. So it's a big dollar these Dutch people are paying, but they're still paying their taxes for our educational system in Ontario and there should be some way we can be of equity here in this very needed area.

I'm always impressed by the audacity of the Ministry of Industry and Tourism. Here we have a picture of the Minister of Tourism (Mr. Bennett) and all his ambassadors abroad, and this is the biggest put-on I've ever seen in my life—what is going on in this department? Going back before most of the present members were here—when Osie Villeneuve and Don Morrow were here and Art Evans and Bernie Newman—this department was set up as a kind of a political slush fund to look after the party. Bob Macaulay set this up to have all these funds he could dole out to the government's friends under the guise of industrial and tourist development.

This thing has developed into a monstrosity now. Here we've got these people who come here from Brussels, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Stockholm, Sao Paulo—my God, it's like the United Nations. It's a complete duplication of what we have in Ottawa here, but we're spending millions of dollars. No wonder Jim Fleck, who was the 2 i/c to the Premier and had his pick of all the plums in execs to ministers—which one did he pick? He can travel the world and go around and can never be home and touch base. I will give Mr. Fleck credit—I meet him on the airlines in the States quite often and he's always travelling economy; I give him marks for that.

Mr. Peterson: Does he come up to the front to visit you, Eddie?

Mr. Sargent: Jim is not a bad guy, but his skates are a bit dull sometimes.

Mr. Speaker, I have been kind of covering the ballpark here. I respect the time factor, but I want to say that I have got the wheels down now and I am coming in for a landing, Leo.

We have nuclear power. We have a \$30 billion commitment. I have a book here called *Poison Power*. I have read it two or three times. I want to say that we are committed to a \$30 billion programme in nuclear power. I say, in a lifetime in politics, a lot of reading, I think we are shooting craps with destiny here.

When not a single insurance company in America will insure a person's life or property against nuclear radiation or any of its fall-out or problems, here we are, we are committed to a \$30 billion or \$30,000 million programme that is mortgaging the life of our people today and our kids in the future. When it is on full stream it will only carry about 10 or 15 per cent of the total load. We had news reports a few weeks ago that we have to bury the spent fuel rods for 2,000 years. There is a case where, in the burying grounds of these rods, the refrigeration was cut off and they started to boil, and all hell broke loose.

I cannot in a short time tell you, Mr. Speaker, the concern I have. But Mr. Teller, one of the forerunners of atomic power, said "All we can hope to do is guess and hope we guess right." Dr. Oppenheimer, who supervised the creation of the first atomic bomb, was called before the US Congress and was asked: "Is there any defence against nuclear weapons?" He said: "Certainly there is a defence. It is peace." Today we are going down the line continuing to be prostitutes here in this country, continuing to offer our nuclear reactor plants across the world to make money.

In summation, what I am trying to say tonight is that the whole motivation to be in power in government is to control the money flow, and here this year it is going to spend \$11,000,800,000. That is what it is all about, to control the money flow. That is why the establishment behind Bill Davis is so concerned about whether or not he calls an election now and does a Bourassa two years before his time, because if he waits two years he can have that money, \$11 billion a year, to spend for his friends for two more years. That is what it is all about.

I know politics, and those of you who have been in politics must agree with that. It's control the money flow, and they do control it for their friends. What is of more concern to me is that, knowing the hazards of nuclear power, we continue to go down that road and spend \$30,000 million a year for something we need like a hole in the head. President Carter is now trying to stop this proliferation, to slow down the nuclear spread, and I wish him luck.

In closing, I want to say that I hope many of the members have read the book *All The President's Men*, the sordid story of Watergate, the slender thread of evidence uncovered by two newspapermen who believed that someone close to the president had engineered a break-in. By some magic stroke of fate they found a piece of tape on a lock that shouldn't have been there, and that was the key to Watergate, the disgraceful impeachment of the president of the greatest nation in the world. There is nothing as serious here, but we have had a series of scandals in this province over the past few years. These two newspapermen, backed up by a courageous and crusading newspaper, uncovered conflicts and inside dealing which resulted in the turmoil it produced.

There is now unfolding evidence of this province; for example we have the Fidinam affair. I held up in the House a photostat of a cheque for \$50,000 and demanded an inquiry. How could a firm which couldn't pay a \$1,500 account get a \$20-million loan and a \$25-million contract? By giving \$50,000 to the bagman of the Tory party? I was kicked out of the House that day. But the Premier said okay, we will investigate this stuff. And so they had their own investigation. What happened? They said, well, we won't do this again; that's what happened.

But it was a criminal offence to sell a government contract. I bet them \$50,000 of my money; I said if they would open up the books of their funding and show they weren't still giving business to the people who supported their funding, then I would forfeit the \$50,000. I was laughed down.

The facts are that today we have seen the unfolding events of the Hydrogate, the Moog and Davis affair, the \$43-million deal without tender. We've also seen the unfolding saga of Eddie Goodman. He's involved, in his position so close to the Premier that he is using it to engineer multi-million dollar deals for himself and his friends—his clients. It makes one wonder where we are going. Where does the buck stop and when?

I predict that the Premier will risk it and call an election to block the revelations and exposure of the select committee on Ronto. It has already dumped one cabinet minister who is leaving the party.

Why does all this happen, and where is the vigilant press in Ontario? Does the Premier of this province—or, I should say, does the government have the press in its pocket? Hiring newsmen at \$36,000 to be executives for ministers. Is this the reward a newsmen gets for five or 10 years of good behaviour—

not criticizing the government? Is this his reward? There are 26 cabinet ministers, and it is the dream of every newspaper man to become an executive with that kind of money. Should we have legislation that would prevent a newsman taking a job in government until he has been removed from the gallery for three years?

But you'll see how much press this gets. You'll have a deaf ear to that one. In fact, the sad affair is that everyone of us in this House is an important man in his area, and no matter what he comes up with—if he talks motherhood—he won't get an inch of space in the papers of this province today. It's completely a Toronto-based deal and the Premier, or the government, has reporters on these junkets to Italy or Israel or wherever in the world. It's a great thing for a newsman to do all these things, but I think it is too close to the area of conflict of interest.

We will continue to watch the financial saga of the Tories to control the money flow of \$14 billion a year. We know the Sun is a Tory paper, but I think there is a cap, a level to which the Toronto Star will go in its support. They will let us go so far and they they will say—Davis is okay, leave him where he is. And we know where the Globe and Mail stands.

So what chance have we—what chance of freedom do we have after 30 years of one party in power? What kind of freedom is this? Someone has said that freedom is a good horse but you have to ride it somewhere.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for the time of the House. Someone has said that you can't hope to change the whole world but you can change the corner upon which you live. I think all of you and all of us, collectively, are trying to do that for our people.

[9:00]

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, may I first take the opportunity of complimenting you, sir, on your position in the fourth session of the 30th Parliament. I would hope that you would relate to the Speaker of the House and to his deputy my personal congratulations and appreciation for the tremendous way in which they're directing the affairs of this House, and certainly the Chairman in his intermittent capacity as Speaker. The job is not an easy one, I think we all recognize that; particularly in a minority government situation when you're called upon maybe to make decisions, which the former Speaker mentioned, when you have to take those tough decisions. But you've done it well; you've done it with care, caution and

I think good judgment; and for this, sir, I compliment you and the people who share the seat which you now occupy for the job that they are doing.

Before I get into the text of my remarks, I must comment briefly on a comment made by the speaker who preceded me. I have difficulty in accepting some of the comments that he has made. The government has been administering the affairs of this province for well on 34 years now, and as I travel the province, and I do travel the province extensively—

Mr. Peterson: Those are your instructions, Leo. You are not supposed to be here.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —on a regular basis, I have to say to you, sir, that we in the province of Ontario are the envy of Canada. We are the most dynamic province in Canada, we're referred to as the banner province; and of course we are the envy of every province, because there are more immigrants coming to this province on an annual basis, more immigrants from outside the country and even from other provinces, to this great province of opportunity here in Ontario.

Mr. Peterson: More unemployment. You are behind the national average of growth rates. Look at the numbers. You are wrong.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: This is the cornerstone, the anchor of Canada, and certainly as we go into the troubled times that we have with the province to the east of us, all provinces in Canada today are watching very closely and carefully what the province of Ontario is doing and the direction we will take in connection with this problem facing us today.

Mr. Peterson: What is that direction, Leo?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The province of Ontario is the leader among provinces. I have been to many federal-provincial conferences dealing with resources, environment and many other issues, and it's always the province of Ontario that takes the lead, that sets the tone for those particular discussions; and you'll hear the other provinces following very carefully with a "me too" attitude.

Mr. Foulds: You are too charitable.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They look to this province for the direction and the guidance that most Canadians want. I can't accept some of the remarks of the previous speaker. He spoke eloquently and it was well researched in his own way.

Mr. Foulds: The most unemployed.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We are the healthiest people, in this province, in Canada today; and the best educated. In fact, we in the province of Ontario have larger disposable incomes than any other group in Canada today, more leisure time, more opportunity to do the things we want.

Mr. Swart: For the 300,000 unemployed.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: After 34 years, there is no doubt in my mind that when that day comes and the Premier decides that the people of the province of Ontario will have the opportunity to exercise their democratic right—and the member spoke about freedom, well, that democratic right is something that we cherish on this side of the House and the people in the province of Ontario will have the opportunity to exercise that right—I have every confidence that when they do, they will return this government in a majority position, to give them the type of direction that they've had for the last 34 years and to give guidance, not only to this province but indeed to Canada as a whole.

As the members of the House are aware, this government will be asking them to approve a bill establishing a new ministry, the Ministry of Northern Affairs with the primary objective of increasing the standard of living of all people in northern Ontario.

Mr. Peterson: And certain cabinet ministers.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I want to spend the next few minutes just talking about northern Ontario and—

Mr. Peterson: The cabinet is too small.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —the needs and the aspirations of that great part of Ontario, because the former speaker dwelt mainly with the problems and the issues south of the French River.

As the person who has been designated to head that new ministry and as a northerner myself, I would like to offer some observations and comments beyond those that have already been made in this chamber, particularly in the Speech from the Throne and at the introduction of this bill. If I may touch on the Throne Speech just for a brief moment, I was particularly pleased that, when Her Honour had delivered that very impressive speech, the response from both sides of the House was practically instantaneous, one of total support and one of just joy and glee.

Mr. Swart: A little overstatement.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I think, as I sat here and watched Her Honour deliver those remarks, it was enlightening to me to see the response, the assurances in that area as to what they would say when they stepped out of the gallery before the television cameras.

Mr. Philip: It brought tears to our ears.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They respond in a very positive way because the Speech from the Throne was one that was very carefully put together with the people of the province in mind; and of course on this side of the House the people of this province are first and foremost in our particular minds. I just want to compliment leaders of the opposition parties for their instantaneous response and for their total support of that particular Throne Speech, which was one, I think, that will go down in history, not only for the length of it, but certainly for the content and for the depth and the quality that was enshrined in that particular statement.

First, let me say that I believe that the problems and the needs of northern Ontario can really be appreciated only by those who have lived in northern Ontario or at the very least have travelled in the north extensively and spent some time among the people that reside there. Many northerners often feel their problems and needs are not fully appreciated, even by the well-meaning and intelligent southerners.

Let me hasten to say that I have chosen those words very carefully. Contrary to what some of my more militant fellow northerners might insist, the phrase "intelligent southerners" is not really a contradiction in terms as such people actually do exist; I can assure you of that, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that few people in southern Ontario ever intend to disparage the north. Many are sympathetic, and as I travel the southern part of the province I get that feeling time and time again; but nevertheless it's quite evident that most of the people in southern Ontario simply don't understand the north.

For instance, it is quite common to hear people from around Toronto speak of northern Ontario as though it were some tiny appendix to the south, as being somewhere up there beyond Barrie. I believe the hon. member sitting in the Speaker's chair will recognize that particular community. In fact, northern Ontario actually is most of this particular province. It makes up about 90 per cent of the entire land mass in Ontario and is therefore almost nine times as large as the size of southern Ontario. Thus southerners who are unfamiliar with the north

find it hard to realize what enormous distances there are between major towns and cities. Northerners have learned to take this fact of life for granted. There are children in the north who ride round trips of about 150 miles a day just to get to and from their school.

I recently heard of a general manager of a company based in Toronto who sent a telegram to a branch manager in Thunder Bay. The wire was an urgent message and read like this: "Our board chairman is arriving in Timmins tonight. Please meet him." Within the hour the Toronto man got a wire back from Thunder Bay and it said: "Suggest you meet him. Stop. You're closer."

That is the attitude with regard to many people living in southern Ontario. They just don't realize the massive distances that are involved between our particular communities.

Relations between the north and the south have their lighter moments, Mr. Speaker, but the problems facing the northern part of this province are serious. Most hon. members, I'm sure, are aware of many of the conditions responsible for those problems: the harsh climate; the rugged terrain that often makes construction costly and difficult; the sparse population including sizeable communities of francophones spread over about 90 per cent of Ontario's land mass yet totaling only 10 per cent of the province's population.

Mr. Foulds: It's the 34 years of Tory government—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The great distances between communities, the remoteness from the heavily-populated parts of Canada and the resultant high costs of transportation, and therefore of a great many of life's simple necessities and minor luxuries. Here I'm thinking of such costs as insulation, which is so essential and yet so expensive for the owner of virtually every building in the north. The high cost of fuel for home heating, the high cost of gasoline for driving those enormous northern distances, and the cost of installing and operating sewage systems on the bare rocks of the Canadian Shield.

In regard to the minor luxuries of life, there are very limited choices in television and radio reception for viewers and listeners in the north. These examples point up the unique problems and difficulties of northern living which are seldom appreciated by southerners who have not experienced them. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, northern Ontario has many assets and attractions which people from the south, and elsewhere, have

been quick to appreciate; the wealth of its mining resources, the richness of its forests, the abundance of its natural attractions that beckon the tourists and, of course, the hunter, the sportsman and the fisherman.

Hon. F. S. Miller: You and I.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the new Minister of Natural Resources stop heckling the soon to be Minister of Northern Affairs?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That's not heckling, Mr. Speaker, that's total support.

Mr. Foulds: That's what this is, it's the speech of a back-bencher.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: But there is another major resource which, in my view Mr. Speaker, is more valuable than all the others combined and that is the people of the north themselves. Any visitor to the north will testify that northerners are among the most warm-hearted, generous and outgoing people in the world, and yet they manage at the same time to be very close-knit and community-minded.

In the north, the words neighbour and friend are pretty well interchangeable. People rely on one another, partly out of necessity but mostly out of habit. It's all part of the spirit of northern Ontario. Some people will call it the pioneer spirit, but that implies a certain attitude that northerners simply do not hold. Certainly they have the stamina and the determination of the pioneers, but their attitudes and their desires are very much in the 1970s. Their outlook is modern and progressive and the only reason they have the image of poor country cousins is that some of my friends in the opposition, and I refer to the New Democratic members, prefer to picture them that way. They've done it for so many years, in order—

Mr. Foulds: That's a lie.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —to sustain their socialist rhetoric—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You will have to withdraw that comment.

Mr. Foulds: That's a lie.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You'll have to withdraw that comment. You can't accuse another member of lying in this chamber, and you'll withdraw it right now.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, The hon. member for Port Arthur knows well that he

cannot accuse another member of lying, and I ask him to please withdraw it.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the remark.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much.

Mr. Foulds: I ask you, on a point of order—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There are no qualifications. There are other ways of making your point. You've withdrawn the comment. The hon. member for Kenora has the floor.

Mr. Foulds: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There's no point of order. There is nothing out of order. I have asked you to withdraw an unparliamentary comment and there can't be a point of order on it. The hon. member for Kenora will continue.

[9:15]

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A great many northerners resent this suggestion that they are living in the past and should therefore be willing to settle for a second-class status within a modern Ontario—and who can blame them? After all, northerners, through their resource industries, produce some \$5 billion worth of goods and services annually, and since most of this production is exported it is an enormous asset in the balance of payments for Ontario, for Canada as a whole and for international trade.

Northerners want the same standard and quality of living as the rest of Ontario and this government agrees that they have every right to expect it. Indeed, it is in response to these feelings and desires that the government of Ontario made the decision to form a Ministry of Northern Affairs. As we all know, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) and some of his friends over there have scoffed at this particular decision—

Mr. Deans: No, they are scoffing at you.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —when the Premier made the announcement on February 3 of this year. For this reason, I believe it is worth stating for the record that the response from the north itself is quite different from the response that we heard from the official opposition. Since the announcement was made, a great many letters of approval and congratulations have come to me and to the Premier, and they have been just as enthusiastic as they have been spontaneous.

Mr. Deans: Just wait until you have been in office for a year.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Certainly they have reaffirmed my own belief that the new ministry will enjoy the fullest possible support from all the people in northern Ontario.

Mr. Deans: You will fail at that as you have failed at everything else.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: There is another point worth putting on the record. I would like to say that I have not forgotten the prediction that the Leader of the Opposition made shortly after the formation of the new ministry. He predicted, if you can believe it, Mr. Speaker, that the new Ministry of Northern Affairs would not last beyond the next election. It's hard to believe that a young man who is so well spoken—and I have a great respect for him—can be so cynical, but that was what he said and it's recorded in all the press of this province.

Mr. Philip: It was not cynical. He was just predicting a new government.

Mr. Deans: It was a political manoeuvre and you know it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I only hope for his sake that he now finds his words very tasty and his phrases very sweet, because he is to going to have to eat every word of them soon after the next election. Of course, he is only one of the members of the NDP who love to make a lot of noise about the north, and I say that with a great deal of sincerity because they have been making a lot of noise. They talk loud and long about giving the north more attention, but when the moment comes for the ministry to do exactly that, to do the things that they have been barking about, they balk, they put up the barriers.

Mr. Foulds: You had the chance for the last 34 years.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I am convinced that they don't want anything positive done for northern Ontario. They love to poor mouth the north and they want to continue that particular approach that has been going on.

Mr. Foulds: That is a lie. That is a lie, Mr. Speaker, and I am not withdrawing my remark.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You are going to have to withdraw it.

Mr. Foulds: No, I am not.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You refuse to withdraw it?

Mr. Foulds: No, I am leaving. I am not listening to that kind of garbage.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You will be escorted out of the chamber. I have to name the member for Port Arthur and he doesn't have the privilege of sitting in here for the rest of this sitting.

Mr. Riddell: He won't miss much.

Mr. Deans: He might as well have missed all of it. It is not much of a privilege.

Mr. Morrow: Wait for your escort, Jim.

[Mr. Foulds was escorted from the chamber by the Sergeant at Arms.]

Mr. Deans: You are doing fine, Leo, just keep it up.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Kenora can continue.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I regret the member for Port Arthur has taken that particular attitude.

Mr. Deans: He is only responding with the truth.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I think that he could have something constructive to say if he really believes in the north.

Mr. Deans: He really does.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: There is a job to do. I get tired about the poor mouthing of the north. Get on the bandwagon and let's do something about it instead of poor mouthing.

Mr. Deans: What have you ever done? What have you done in 10 years?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, you may be sure that the NDP brag about themselves and the Departments of Northern Affairs that their party operates in the province of Manitoba and the province of Saskatchewan—but that's different, of course. When the NDP government does something, or anything, that's called masterful socialist insight. When this government takes a positive step, our critics call it an election gimmick. That's the part that really annoys me as a northerner. It drives them crazy to realize that they will soon have to listen more and complain less. They may even have to do some listening for a change, with a little less talking.

It's not new, of course, for them to want to have things both ways. The reaction to this new initiative will be important. It's obvious that there is a lot of doubletalk going on on the other side; they have outdone themselves, I think, in this particular case. I know that they think, they're fooling the people as they try to discredit the government and the fact we have a deep concern in the north. Just give us an opportunity.

Mr. Deans: We don't have to try, you discredit yourselves.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Certainly there is plenty of evidence to testify to concern over northern Ontario. Just look at the record, it's there.

Mr. Deans: Just look at the record.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I'm thinking, for instance, of the dozens of initiatives represented by our regional priority budget, which is aptly named because it is directed largely at the northern regions. It is based on many of the most important priorities of northern Ontario people themselves.

Mr. Philip: If your initiatives are so good, why—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I must concede that a great many of our projects under this programme are not very glamorous to talk about, nor are they cosmetic measures or short-term, one-time ventures; quite the contrary, they represent the kind of long-term continued progress that the north really needs—

Mr. Swart: Like your reforestation policy for the last 30 years.

Mr. Ferrier: Why did you close down the northeastern regional mental health centre then?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: New sewage treatment plants, trunk-line sanitary sewers, water lines, pumping stations, improved and extended roads—the list goes on and on. The so-called soft services, social services, also have a solid base in reality that northerners understand and appreciate: Manpower studies to identify the potential of the labour force and thus to direct people's skills into the right channels; plans for extended tourist industry and so on.

Mr. Ferrier: When are you going to build that new office building, the one you announced in Timmins? Is that coming tomorrow?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I defy any member of this Legislature to scan our long record—regional priority projects, expansion of northern Ontario, Northern Ontario resources transportation committee, airstrip development programmes, the young travellers programme—

Mr. Philip: You don't have a transportation policy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Let's have some order, please.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —the Northern Ontario Development Corporation, special municipal subsidies, Isolated Communities Assistance programme—and then tell me that this government's concern about northern Ontario is some kind of election gimmick. It's just straight balderdash.

Mr. Philip: Where is your transportation policy?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The projects which I refer to are ones, of course, which were undertaken long before the decision was made to form a Ministry of Northern Affairs. For this reason there may be some hon. members, perhaps on both sides of the House, who are wondering, quite thoughtfully and sincerely, whether there is a need for such a ministry. I know that question has come before you.

Mr. Swart: Have to put you some place.

Mr. Philip: Chambers of commerce, something like that.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Certainly I can understand the viewpoint of those who say: "But the government has been doing things in the north up to now; would a new ministry do more?" Those are some of the questions that are being tossed out to me by members on that side of the House.

The answer is very simply yes, there will be plenty for my new ministry to do. For one thing, the people in the north themselves have long been waiting for a special voice at Queen's Park, a minister who will be their voice in the cabinet—not just speaking for one or two ministries but on the issues affecting the north, to express the quite different viewpoint held by people who live in the quite different environment of northern Ontario.

Mr. Ferrier: What's been holding you down for the last 10 years?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: And the members, I give them respect, members on both sides of the House, have always said most emphati-

cally that there are different voices, different logic and different and unique problems in northern Ontario, in that area lying north of the French River.

Thus it will be my role and the role of others in my ministry to identify the needs of northerners, to articulate those needs and to provide immediate, on-the-spot advice to the government as to which measures would be most appropriate in meeting those needs. It will be our task on the one hand to consult continually with local leaders and residents all over the north, to keep the government fully informed of their changing situation. It will also be our task, on the other hand, to co-ordinate the plans and actions of various ministries whose presence and programmes are already very much part of the northern scene.

By these and other means, my ministry will be providing northerners with a stronger and a more effective voice in government; something that is not possible through our system of representation by numbers alone. As a minister, I will be concerning myself especially with the people in the north who understandably feel remote from government. It will be my responsibility to help them find the best ways of using existing ministries, agencies and government machinery to help them solve their problems.

As most hon. members will know or assume, the present network of northern affairs officers who have been part of the Ministry of Natural Resources will become part of my new ministry. This network will be extended wherever and whenever additional offices are found to be useful and economic.

Mr. Ferrier: Put one in Iroquois Falls.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It may very well be.

Mr. Ferrier: It's about time. We have wanted one for five or six years.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We have also announced previously that we will post an assistant deputy minister in each of the north's two major regions, one in northeastern Ontario and one in northwestern Ontario.

Mr. Ferrier: Is the regional office going to be in Timmins?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Their further presence in those regions will strengthen the communications and other ties between the north and Queen's Park. As a co-ordinating ministry, our job will also include the assessment of the government's activities in the north with a view to identifying any gaps that may occur

between programmes or between ministerial responsibilities. As circumstances and conditions in the north continue to change, we will be reviewing the government priorities and suggesting the best ways of modifying existing measures or perhaps to phase out some of them in favour of new ones.

While I am assured of receiving a great deal of co-operation from my cabinet colleagues, I know that in some instances there may be honest differences between us as to whether conditions in the north warrant the introduction of different rules and regulations to those that apply in the south. It will be my task at times to persuade the government that in some circumstances we are doing a disservice to the people of the north if we insist on universal application of laws and regulations that were originally intended to deal with southern conditions. What is right and proper in the urbanized, densely populated south is not necessarily right in the much more sparsely populated areas of northern Ontario.

Northerners know what I mean. I am sure most of them could suggest half a dozen examples of southern Ontario-made laws and regulations that should be modified in the north because of the difference in the conditions up there. I know there is no argument with that statement from all sides of the House. I believe that's one reason northerners have responded so favourably to the idea of a Ministry of Northern Affairs. I am sure you are aware, Mr. Speaker, that this request has been hovering around northern Ontario for a number of years, there's just no question about it. Various groups have come forward periodically with the idea of a special voice at Queen's Park for northern Ontario, and I am particularly pleased that the Premier and the government have recognized that voice.

Mr. Deans: After all these years.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: My problem at the moment is to make them realize that a ministry, especially a ministry with such wide concerns, does not become a fully operative entity overnight. It takes time to build a new organization into an effective, working instrument of the government, of any government. The government's broad policies for the north are there as general guidelines but we have many specifics to resolve. There are questions as well involving ministerial jurisdictions, co-ordination, working arrangements, selection of experienced personnel, largely of course from within the government; and I might also point out transfer

of programmes from other ministries and so on.

I can say to you, Mr. Speaker, that as we are selecting our staff we are putting particular emphasis on those who have some experience and some knowledge of the problems and the unique requests and concerns of northern Ontario in the selection of those personnel.

The pressure I feel from the north to get on with this process is not what I interpret to be an impatient one; rather it is the same sort of eagerness that I share in wanting to see this new opportunity become a working reality as swiftly as we can make it.

[9:30]

But there is one consolation: The people of northern Ontario know that we mean business. They know it from our record of the past and the current projects and programmes, and so they realize that we have in fact quite a list of accomplishments on which to build this new ministry.

One category of these falls under the regional priority budget, which I mentioned earlier—a package on which we will be spending in excess of \$53 million over the next fiscal year. Another important item, and one that is carefully ignored by those who criticize our record in the north, is this special general support in the form of grants which the province pays to northern municipalities to help them keep local property taxes down. Many times this is just sloughed off or ignored.

I doubt whether it's widely known, but it is a fact that property taxes in the north have been reduced significantly as a result of these grants. In 1976, for example, property taxes were 35 per cent lower per household in the north than in the south, even though northern municipalities must inevitably spend relatively more because of the higher costs in the north.

There are a great many other Ontario government programmes that could be mentioned in this context—a half a million dollar fund to enable the small isolated communities to install basic services. And I might say, Mr. Speaker—and I know you're interested—we had \$250,000 to be allocated to the remote communities of northern Ontario. The Treasurer of this province (Mr. McKeough) made this announcement in late November. We worked very closely with the Unorganized Communities Association of Northern Ontario—commonly called UCANO—with which we are all familiar, working closely with them in sending out the bro-

chures and the application forms and getting the information out to the northern affairs offices. I'm pleased to report to you, sir, that we wound up the year with a total disbursement of about \$233,000, which was indeed a record and it was certainly recognized by all those who were involved.

As you may be well aware, in that particular programme our emphasis was placed on fire protection. I was a little annoyed to hear one of the opposition members—I believe he was in the Liberal Party—make fun of that smoke detection programme. As you know, we have granted UCANO in north-eastern and northwestern Ontario grants amounting to \$33,000 each with which they would make large bulk purchases of smoke detectors that could be sold with a \$5 subsidy to the consumer at a cost of about \$27 each.

Our thinking behind this was very simple. In setting up a programme in the unorganized areas, it is very difficult to establish a volunteer fire department that could be set up to protect certain structures and homes. It's just not possible in a short period of several weeks to get those people together, get them trained, get the right equipment that could be approved by the fire marshal's office, to protect their structures.

So we took the other route—the sensible route—to do something to protect human life. We thought that if we went this particular route—and this was in consultation with UCANO—if we could get sufficient smoke detectors into those homes—and many of those homes are frame built; they're very volatile. There's just no question about it, if a fire starts there's a limited amount of time for an individual to escape should a fire take place. So we felt that if we could get smoke detectors in those areas and save one life—just one life—in northern Ontario with that particular programme, then indeed the programme would have been a success; and I'm sure it will be.

I say that with a great deal of sincerity. The programme is off and running with the co-operation, the excellent co-operation that we've received from UCANO; and with the northern affairs officers throughout northern Ontario I am very confident that the programme will continue to be a success and the people in the unorganized areas will respond in a very positive way to obtain those smoke detection devices that will protect them in the event of a fire.

In dealing with this subject the difficulty, of course, lies not in finding projects and programmes worthy of mention, but in summarizing them briefly in a manner that will

provide a comprehensive picture of what is happening in the north as a result of the government's initiatives. Even at that, there are serious problems that remain to be tackled and solved, and I am the first one to admit that.

Some of these are as very easy to identify as they are difficult to overcome: The vulnerability of some of these communities where economies are far too dependent on a single resource, or even a single enterprise; the pressure of some communities to provide housing and services in the face of sudden industrial expansion; the pollution that is present where sewage systems are inadequate or where industrial installations cannot be economically modernized to meet today's environmental standards; the need to rejuvenate the mining industry, particularly to encourage exploration for new mines; the need to develop more alternatives for employment; and the pressing need to keep young and well educated people living and working in the north.

Mr. Ferrier: Haven't done very well in the last couple of years.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Northern Ontario is justly proud of the large number of distinguished people who have been born and raised there, leaders and prominent achievers in many fields of endeavour, but a deplorably large number of these brilliant and gifted people have found that their aspirations could be fulfilled only if they move south, in some instances even a good many miles south of here. I would not pretend for a moment that all of the problems will be solved by my new ministry, or for that matter by this or any government. If that were possible we would already be well along the road towards solving all of these problems. Such things are never as simple as my simple-minded critics across the aisle like to pretend.

Mr. Samis: Cheap shot, cheap shot.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Just the same, I am convinced that with the establishment of a vigorous new ministry, devoted specifically and exclusively to the north, we will focus attention as never before on the needs of northern people while co-ordinating the actions that spell progress for the north. In my opinion, northern Ontario faces a brighter and more exciting prospect for development and progress than at any other time within living memory. I predict, sir, that the closing years of the 1970s will long be remembered as the beginning of a new era of progress and understanding for the people of northern Ontario.

Mr. Samis: Get this on record.

Ms. Sandeman: Mr. Speaker, I will endeavour not to be as provocative as the previous speaker, although I can't let pass one remark that he made. He commented that the Throne Speech, which is the subject of our debate tonight, was very carefully put together with the people of this province in mind. I would have to agree with that short portion of his speech—it clearly was put together with the people of this province in mind. I think every group in this province can find in the Throne Speech some reference to their concerns. They will, however, have to look very far to find solutions to those concerns.

I would like to address my remarks tonight, Mr. Speaker, to one of those groups who got the obligatory notice in passing in the Throne Speech, and that is the senior citizens, the elderly people of our province. Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, mentioned in her speech that her ministry will continue to give high priority to the needs of the aging population; great, the obligatory reference to the needs of the aging population. We wait to see what the priority will be and what attention will be given; and we are told that the number of assessment and placement services will be increased to ensure that senior citizens receive care appropriate to their needs.

I have no quarrel with the provision of excellent, if indeed we could find them, assessment and placement services. They are a priority. But the problem is that it is no good assessing the needs of a senior citizen if you have nowhere to place him or her having completed the assessment. The crying need in this province at the moment is for appropriate placement spots for senior citizens.

We are told that more funds will be designated for home care and home support services. I welcome that initiative, it is desperately needed. I am waiting now to hear the announcement of how much more funds will be designated and how soon.

But I would like to address my remarks to some of the priorities and needs which were woefully lacking in the Throne Speech; the needs of the senior citizens, basically in three areas: income, housing and alternatives to institutionalization.

The basic needs of senior citizens are really the same as the basic needs of all the citizens of this province, and I think we make a mistake if we look too narrowly at needs based on age, whether it be youth or old

age; or needs based on sex. We all have particular needs, and one of the major needs is to have an adequate income which allows people to live with dignity and self-respect. But, as we know, in this province more than 50 per cent of the elderly people, the old age pensioners, have very low incomes—incomes which leave them with inadequate amounts of money for rent and food, increasingly inadequate amounts of money as we see hydro and fuel bills increasing over this past winter.

I was told today, by a lady who does volunteer work with senior citizens and with disabled people, that a social worker had come to the home of an elderly lady on, I think, a disability pension—she hadn't yet reached the magic age of 65 but she was not in the first flush of youth—and she was having trouble making ends meet. The social worker went in and discussed her problems with her and ended up by saying, "Well, my dear, you have 80 cents a day for food, you are really not budgeting very well, are you?" and swept out. The volunteer felt that was a totally useless kind of comment to make, but it points up the kind of amounts of money that people are trying to survive on in this province.

The crazy thing that we see at the moment is that there are real financial incentives for older people to go into institutions rather than to stay at home. And this surely makes of Ontario a kind of Alice in Wonderland situation, where it is cheaper for the individual concerned to go into an expensive institution than to stay in his or her own home.

I know the Advisory Council on Senior Citizens, in its annual reports, has brought to the attention of the minister the high costs, borne particularly by seniors, of dentures, hearing aids, glasses. No relief has been given in that field.

Reductions in government support payments often hit the elderly. At a time, I think, when many of us assume that government support payments are carefully geared to the needs of the elderly, we find again the Alice in Wonderland situation. For instance, in the situation where you have a married senior citizen couple—one spouse on old age security, guaranteed income supplement and GAINS, and the other receiving family benefits payments, probably for a disability—when the senior citizen's income goes up, courtesy of a modest amount of generosity on the part of the federal and provincial governments, then the disabled person's

allowance goes down. In fact, the couple's income does not increase at all, but they see their hydro bills increasing, their dental bills increasing, their food bills increasing; and they wonder where justice is for people who have served this province and worked hard for many years.

I know that the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Norton) has received a petition signed by the majority of residents in municipal senior citizens' homes, pointing out to him the burden on active senior citizens of the very low comfort allowance, the fact that there has been no increase in this allowance since July 1974, and that on \$43 an active senior citizen is expected to buy all his or her needs in the range of clothes, shoes, overcoats, bus fares—maybe a trip of hundreds of miles in this large province, as the previous speaker has pointed out, to see a grandchild get married. For \$43 a month, they are expected to be able to do all that: pay for their personal needs, pharmaceutical needs, soap, toothpaste, haircut—you name it. Out of \$43 a month, you are expected to do it if you are a senior citizen in a municipal senior citizens' home.

[9:45]

Another anomaly which creeps into government programmes for the seniors is the extraordinary anomaly in the reduction rates under the GAINS programme to senior citizens. Disabled people receiving GAINS "D" are allowed to earn a modest amount before their earnings begin to be clawed back by the government. But senior citizens may earn not one single penny without seeing 100 per cent reduced from their GAINS cheque. I submit that this really removes the dignity and the feeling of self worth of a senior citizen who would like to work, would like to contribute, would like to feel that he or she can still be useful. What feeling of usefulness does she have, if she is unable, in effect, to retain any of her earnings and, therefore, is likely to throw up her hands and say, "Why should I bother?"

The Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto in its budget guide for the elderly, recently suggested that a senior citizen married couple in Toronto need between \$650 and \$695 a month. Admittedly, they did include in their budget—and why shouldn't they?—allowances for running a car, for maybe buying the odd newspaper, for having some of the pleasures of life that younger people and older people should expect to take for granted in the rich Ontario

of 1977. But on the GAINS pension of \$558 a month for a married couple, they're going to be very hard put to afford even the basic necessities in Toronto, when we see the average rents that are specified in that budget guide.

I could wish that other areas of the province were able to document the expenses found by seniors in their areas. I imagine that rents will vary across the province. In fact, the annual report for the advisory council on senior citizens in 1974-1975 made a very firm recommendation to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) about basic living costs.

The recommendation was that, for some time now, solid and reasonable figures have been discussed in many circles to obtain basic living-costs for seniors. That's the kind of thing that the social planning council tries to do. The Hon. Marc Lalonde has requested that each province research this problem. Since time is running out for many of our 65s, the council has requested the provincial secretary to obtain this information. As far as I know, this information has not been made public. It would certainly be useful, not only for the seniors but for the members of the Legislature, to know what the government believes senior citizens in this province need to live on. That request was made in 1974-1975 and I imagine the seniors are still waiting for a follow-up on it.

The second area in which we are so woefully deficient in this province is in the provision of housing for our senior citizens. One of the major reasons for premature and unnecessary institutionalization is inadequate housing. We have a very much higher percentage of our older people in institutional settings in this province than do many other jurisdictions. Some of that is caused by the fact, as I mentioned before, that the financial incentive is to go into the institution. Another major cause is inadequate housing; people either cannot afford to maintain their homes or are in unsuitable housing where, perhaps because of failing health, they cannot negotiate stairs, and so on, and are forced to move out when there is no need for them to be in an institutional setting.

The Throne Speech promises more rental units for the elderly. This is certainly a welcome promise. But the Throne Speech gives no indication of the size of the problem in this province. A survey done for CMHC suggested that a conservative—if I may use that unfortunate word—a conservative goal would be to provide a stock of non-profit housing for 15 per cent of the elderly. We have in

this province a stock of non-profit housing units for just about five per cent of the elderly. We fall woefully short of even the conservative estimate set up by CMHC. Even to reach a minimum standard we have a long way to go. In my own city, we have as many people on the waiting list for senior citizen units as we have senior citizen units, and, of course, the list is growing all the time because of the lack of affordable housing for people on their own on fixed incomes and the lack of housing which is suitable for the needs of couples or single elderly people.

Rents and maintenance costs are becoming prohibitively high for senior citizens. Property taxes, even with the property tax credit system, are a burden to many. Much of my mail, and I'm sure of other members of the House, comes from senior citizens who are disturbed and distressed by the burden of their property taxes and particularly the education component of that.

Our amendment to the Throne Speech speaks to that problem. We are moving, as part of our amendment, "the failure to moderate increases in the cost of living by refusing to recognize that the present property tax formula places an unfair burden on middle-, low- and fixed-income families." Of course, into that category of middle-, low- and fixed-income families comes by far the largest majority of our senior citizens.

Demographic studies show we will have for many years to come increasing need in the province for property and homes designed specifically for the elderly. This, in fact, doesn't always mean designing specifically for the elderly, but rather means a flexibility in design so that people don't have to move out just because they are elderly, but that housing is available which would suit, say, a middle-aged couple whose children have moved out, and in which they could stay and with which they could cope as they grow older.

The key factor in housing for the elderly, as it is for any other age group, is that we must have sufficient choice and accessibility of units which meet the needs of people. At the moment in this province we do not have either the choice or the accessibility of affordable housing for the elderly. One too often thinks of providing housing by having people move to special units or into institutions, but one of the programmes which other jurisdictions have undertaken with a great deal of success and relatively little expense is to provide structural changes to the homes of the elderly which allow them to stay and to cope with their houses; changes which are as simple as building grab-bars by bathtubs or changing

the height of kitchen counters or the layout of kitchen cupboards, or putting a ramp to the front door or things of that kind, which would allow people, perhaps with arthritis or after a minor stroke, who are quite able to look after themselves, to do so without the hazards of living in unsafe and inappropriate housing to which they are probably very much attached, which they are unlikely to wish to leave unless they have to, but which in the present situation they often feel they must move out of because it provides a hazard to their health, and so they add to the growing list of people waiting for Ontario Housing units or waiting to get into a residential situation when there's probably no real need for them to do so.

I think that both a reasonable level of income and the provision and maintenance of suitable housing would go a long way to keeping elderly people out of institutions. I think it's important that we do that for two reasons: One, because most elderly people would prefer not to be in institutions. It's well known to all of us who have elderly relatives or friends that very few of them go willingly into an institution. Many of them would rather not. Secondly, the reason is that the burden on our provincial budget of expensive institutions is unnecessary and we should be finding ways to provide alternatives.

The report of the interministry committee on residential services points up this conclusion. The committee reported that perhaps the most serious matter for the senior citizen is the lack of non-residential alternatives. Despite the established trend away from institutional care, Ontario gives its seniors a strong financial incentive to go inside, especially those on extended care.

Firstly, they are able to live in a style they would be unable to pay for in the community out of OAS, GIS, GAINS, family benefits and pensions. In the meantime, the aged person in the community can barely make ends meet and has extremely little in the way of service to help him stay there. The report points up what I've just said. The irony is that very few people go into institutions without a great deal of reluctance.

The report also, of course, documents the prevailing chaos in institutional services for the elderly, the multiplicity of funding arrangements, the multiplicity of legislative sanctions under which these services operate and, in a sense, is unable to reach any proper conclusion about how those problems may be met within the institutional services.

I'd just like to take a few moments right now to talk, not so much about the insti-

tutions themselves, but some alternatives to institutional care, some preventive services which we are neglecting almost entirely in this province. Our home care programmes are woefully inadequate and I believe that one of the reasons why we have such a high percentage of our elderly in hospitals and homes for the aged, compared with, say, Great Britain, must be because home care was not made an insurable benefit when hospital and institutional care were.

In Great Britain, Mr. Speaker, you probably know that when the National Health Service was introduced, hospital, institutional care and home care simultaneously became insurable benefits, so that there was a real choice among the services for physicians, patients and recipients of care. There was absolutely no financial incentive to go into more expensive institutional care, rather than using services at home which, in our case, have to be bought, are often means tested and are very often not totally available to those who need them.

Again, I think this is part of the extraordinary shortsightedness on the part of the Ontario government. Even relatively minor changes in the home care plan would improve it in the short run—such simple things, for instance, as making home care available for the chronically sick, so that when families are able to maintain the chronically sick at home with the help of home care, that help will be available. At the moment of course, it's not and people, in desperation, with the burden of a chronically sick person in the house, are apt to beg their doctor to find them a nursing home bed or an extended care bed or whatever it might be.

Home care, in my mind, should include a variety of services. Medical service, obviously; maintenance of the home; housekeeping services where necessary; shopping, where necessary; foot care—a very neglected area for the senior citizens in this province. For many people in the province there is not chiropody available on a regular basis. The last figures I saw from Britain suggested that 14 per cent of the senior citizens in Great Britain are getting regular care from a chiropodist in their homes. We're nowhere near that percentage and many elderly people would be a lot more mobile and therefore a lot more healthy if they were given proper foot care.

[10:00]

Other things that I take to be included in the broad umbrella of home care are things like the provision of night attendants so that

families may get some sleep and be able to cope with the sick and the elderly during the day. Nothing is guaranteed to make a daughter or a daughter-in-law snappish with grandmother more quickly than loss of sleep and broken nights. The psychological and emotional health of the family as well as the physical health of an elderly person who is sick either in the short or long run is much improved just by the simple provision of someone to be there during the night.

Some elderly people who live alone need help with dressing. Once they have got into their surgical corset or even the straight-forward clothes that we all wear, they are all right; but just to get up and get dressed with arms and legs stiffened from arthritis is too much of an effort.

That kind of thing appears on the criteria for extended care: Do patients need help dressing themselves? Yes, patients may need help dressing themselves but that's absolutely no reason to look at an institutional setting. It is much more reason to say: "How can we help that person get dressed and enjoy the days and nights in their own home?" Some people need help with heavy cleaning in the house. They can cope with the regular chores but cleaning windows and doing the annual spring cleaning is beyond them. In Sweden, for instance, they have what they call heavy cleaning patrols which will go on an annual or semi-annual basis from home to home and do the heavy cleaning for people.

Other things for the elderly, of which we are only beginning to scratch the surface, are things like day centres. Day centres for the well provide meals. They provide entertainment, fellowship and educational resources. They are places where the chiropodist and the public health nurse may be available, or one can provide day hospitals for the physically and mentally infirm. That's a kind of switch on having night attendants at home. If there are people who need some help with their physical or mental problems, one can provide a day hospital for them and take them home in the evening. The family can cope overnight, and during the day they are back in the setting of the day hospital. They don't need 24-hour-a-day, expensive \$120-a-day hospital beds.

Another service which I think the government should be considering, and again it is not expensive but it makes all the difference for families trying to cope with elderly people who may be sick or senile, is a system of holiday respite. This can be handled in two ways: Either the infirm elderly person is

taken to a holiday nursing home for two weeks or a month to allow the family to go on holiday or, while the family is on holiday, the home care services move into the home and take over.

I think very often for the minority of people of whom I am speaking—and it is only a minority of elderly people who are infirm as the majority are healthy, strong and active—the emotional and psychological health of their families—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will you keep your conversations down, please? It is only common courtesy to the speaker, the one who has the floor.

Mr. Martel: We are being very quiet. We are not bothering anyone.

Ms. Sandeman: Yes, they are being very quiet.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No, their conversations are quite audible up here. I want to hear the member for Peterborough.

Mr. Martel: You are just trying to listen to both of them.

Mr. Ferrier: You are super-sensitive.

Ms. Sandeman: As I was saying, before I was so politely interrupted, it seems to me that the health—psychological, emotional and physical—of a whole family living together with several generations in one home must be a concern, as well as that of one generation only. Too often we concentrate our efforts on providing care for the infirm senior citizen and very often on finding the institutional place for that infirm senior citizen, where, if we would take cognizance of the needs of the rest of the family, we would recognize that providing holiday respite such as I have mentioned, or night attendants and that kind of thing, would solve the problem in a way which would keep the family happily coping together with the family's own problems.

I have heard members of the government say they would like to see families taking responsibility for their elderly. So would we all, but families must be given support systems if they are to do that of the quality and, I would say, even better than the quality of that which is given in institutional settings. We had an OFY group in Peterborough a couple of summers ago and a group of young people in the summer of 1975 did a project in which they reported on the needs of older people in Peterborough. The survey was very carefully done and very carefully monitored,

and some of the results I found quite distressing.

They asked, among other questions: Do you have any problem preparing meals? Of the people they asked, 11 per cent said, yes, they had problems preparing meals. Their comments on this question included such things as, "I'm tired of cooking." "I have no appetite lately", "Sometimes I haven't the energy to go shopping," "Cooking for one is tough"—comments of that kind.

The next question was: Do you have a cooked meal every day? Five per cent of the people answering said, no, they didn't. It seems to me that good nutrition is as important, or even more important, for elderly people than it is for younger people. Peterborough is always said to be a representative community—if you want to test your new instant puddings you take them to Peterborough, if they go there they'll go anywhere. We're just as representative in our mix of senior citizens as any other city, and I would imagine that if 11 per cent of seniors living at home in Peterborough have trouble cooking their meals, and five per cent of them don't eat a cooked meal every day' that's pretty representative of this province, and it's an interesting piece of research that these young people did.

In Peterborough, as in so many other cities, we just can't meet the needs of meals on wheels. We have a small and dedicated volunteer group who are doing the best they can, but they are not reaching that five per cent of senior citizens—not by any means. Nor are we in other centres of the province.

I was very impressed when I was crossing a road in London, England, I think it was about five years ago, and it was around 11:30 in the morning in Camden, a borough of London which has a socialist municipal government and is famous for its level of social services. I tried to cross Euston Road, and I was nearly run down by the fleet of small yellow vans run by the municipality, cost-shared, of course, by the national government, which said on the side "Meals on Wheels, Borough of Camden." They are making, in a community like that, a really concerted effort to blanket the municipality with hot meals at noon for those who really need them. We're not even beginning to meet the level of nutrition for our elderly people that we should be.

Other things that this survey covered were the transportation facilities available for older people; 32 per cent of the older people in our city do not have the use of a car. This was taken to mean not only a car that was owned,

but a car one could use—a friend or a relative's car. So 32 per cent of the people did not have a car, which makes transportation a very important subject for senior citizens. Mobility is of great importance to all of us, and most of us assume that the family has a car; but one in three seniors do not have that privilege in Peterborough, which, as I say, is representative and I suspect that their experience is found across the province.

I think that when we're looking at alternatives for institutional care we need to be more innovative in our approach for living arrangements for senior citizens. Some people like to live in their own home if they can maintain it, some like to move into a smaller apartment, some like the idea of communal living—not institutional communal living, but separate units with a live-in warden. Some senior citizens projects are of this kind, particularly the small projects run by service clubs which are in garden settings, and, in my mind, are very attractive and in high demand by senior citizens. There's never enough of them in any community that I've come across.

The Abbeyfield experiment is another experiment that many seniors in Britain are beginning to find meets their needs. The Abbeyfield people are a private, non-profit-making group who buy up ordinary houses, larger houses in communities, convert them into bed-sitting rooms and rent the rooms at very moderate charges. Each house has its own housekeeper; two hot main meals are provided every day. It's a kind of group home situation for the elderly. We're too inclined to think of group homes for children, but many older people like the idea of a group home, with privacy for themselves.

I've only touched on some of the ways in which we could be providing alternative services for senior citizens in this province, and I don't think that they should necessarily all be provided directly by government, but funding support and leadership is necessary if we are ever to meet the needs of our growing senior citizen population. The funding support and leadership must come from the provincial government, and the provincial government must co-ordinate housing, health, and social services for senior citizens. We were glad to see in the Throne Speech at least a token move—I hope it will be more than that, but we haven't seen the proof yet—a token move toward co-ordinating services for children, but we have the same kind of chaotic mess for services for all age groups in this province, and for senior citizens particularly. Housing, health, and

social services must be co-ordinated for that group if we are to make sense of them.

In conclusion, may I say that the Throne Speech promises to give high priority to the needs of our aging population, but it will be an empty promise, like so many other promises in that speech, unless this government addresses itself at once to the pressing problems of income, housing and social services for this group.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see that a couple of the New Democrats quickly came over to our side as I rose and we're glad to have them here. Maybe they should stick around for a few minutes to see what the other side lives like.

Mr. Davidson: Because we like you.:

Mr. Mancini: Thank you.

I am very pleased to rise and once again participate in the reply to the Throne Speech. It is an honour for me to be here and represent the great riding of Essex South. Before I go into the main thrust of my debate, I would just like to tell the members of the House that the riding of Essex South is really unique. It's been practically the same as an electoral district for the last hundred years. Very small parts of the riding have been changed and the riding is one made up of many rural areas, it is largely agricultural and we also have a very large segment of industry in the western end of the riding, and also in the eastern end of the riding.

Fishing is one of the main areas where many of my constituents make their living, especially in the Kingsville and Wheatley areas. We are very pleased to have this industry. It has come under some severe pressure from the Ontario government lately, but hopefully we've got most of the problems straightened out in that industry, and the people there can go back to work and make a living.

Mr. Ferrier: Don't make Heinz ketchup, do they?

[10:15]

Mr. Mancini: Just give me a chance. Also, many of the unique things we have in the riding of Essex South have to do with the culture and heritage of many people. I would just like to mention we have many ethnic groups of large numbers that have moved into the riding over the past 30 or 40 years. These groups are very hard-working people. They have established their own ethnic clubs

and are certainly to be commended for their work and for the good they bring to the riding of Essex South. You may also wish to know, Mr. Speaker, that we have a large Mennonite community. They have their own school and pay for all the services that go towards the school out of their own pocket. It certainly is good to see a group as industrious and as hard working as these Mennonite people.

I would also like to mention, as I'm sure many of the members in the House here today recall the former member, Mr. Don Paterson. I just want to let the members of the House know, if they're ever planning a trip to Pelee Island or to Point Pelee or to anywhere in that vicinity, they'll probably drive past an establishment called the Pelee Motor Inn.

Mr. Ruston: A great place for tourists.

Mr. Kennedy: Has it got a licence?

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Paterson is one of the five proprietors and is the president of the operation. I really have to recommend the Pelee Motor Inn as a fine place—

Mr. Bain: What are the rates?

Mr. Deans: What is this, a sponsor?

Mr. Mancini: —to have a meal and to stay overnight.

Mr. Ruston: It has good food! Even the Treasurer would like that place.

Mr. Samis: How much for the next campaign? Are you broke?

Mr. Bain: The foregoing was a public service announcement.

Mr. Samis: Paid for by the taxpayers of Ontario.

Mr. Mancini: I am glad to hear the response from all the members in the House. We really know that Mr. Paterson was a well liked member.

Mr. Ruston: That's right.

Mr. B. Newman: A fine member.

Mr. Mancini: Many of the towns and townships in my area have been on a programme to try to save the heritage that Essex South is so famous for. I'm sure many of the members here know that in the western end of the riding we have the famous Fort Malden museum which brings in a lot of people. We're very proud to have that site there. Also the town in conjunction with having

this very fine museum is undertaking a very ambitious NIP programme to really preserve the heritage of Amherstburg. I am sure in five or 10 years from now many members of this House and many former members of this House will probably want to go and drive to Amherstburg just to see the heritage that this council and the people in the area are trying to preserve. I think it's something that we're all going to be proud of.

Also, in the Kingsville area, we have the Ontario Historical Vehicle Association, which has really undertaken an ambitious and hard-working programme in the Gosfield South area. This summer they're going to open it up. They're going to have a mock battle on the land they purchased. They're going to show off many of the old vehicles that they've been able to accumulate over the years, and they also are saving many old, historical buildings which someday we shall really cherish.

I guess I can't mention Essex South without mentioning Heinz, the people that make our ketchup and employ many people.

Mr. Ruston: The tomato capital of the world.

Mr. Mancini: Right, it's the tomato capital of the world. It employs many people and many of the farmers in the Mersea and Gosfield South area bring their tomatoes to the Heinz factory. We're very pleased to have that establishment there.

I'd just like to mention that over the last 18 months the riding of Essex South has had many local issues that have caused great concern to the people of the riding. One of the issues I'm very sorry to say we have not been able to resolve is the issue of ambulances in certain areas of my riding. In the Harrow area we have the Richard Smith Ambulance Service, which is operated through the family of Gerald R. Smith. It is a service of long standing, serving the communities of Colchester North, Harrow and Colchester South—approximately 9,000 people.

Mr. Samis: You sound like the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Mancini: This ambulance service is one that is needed a great deal. It is very unfortunate that the present government has decided to cut the budget to this ambulance service by well over 30 per cent.

We have been able to obtain a petition from the people of the area. It was, I believe, one of the largest petitions ever tabled in this House, and I am proud to say that it was

tabled by myself. It had over 3,000 names on it. But even that was not enough to stir emotions on the government side, so that this ambulance service would not suffer this terrible 30 per cent cutback. I just cannot understand how anybody can conceive that an operation can continue to operate the way it did before with such a stringent cutback.

While I am talking about ambulance services, I must mention the volunteer service in the Amherstburg, Anderdon and Malden areas. It is a volunteer service which has been in operation for quite some time. It is very popular—as a matter of fact, they have a list of people waiting to join the volunteers. It is a well respected organization. We are very pleased to have them and we are, certainly, proud of the work that they do in our area.

Before I move away from the ambulance topic, I just have to say that the public relations from the ambulance director of this province is just terrible. He has been able to upset just about every ambulance director and everybody involved in ambulance work in the whole riding of Essex South. When one person can do that, I think there is a problem.

Mr. Davidson: It's universal. It's universal.

Mr. Mancini: And I sincerely hope that this type of public relations does not carry on. I don't think it is good for the province.

Interjection.

Mr. Mancini: And I certainly don't think it is good for the riding of Essex South.

Mr. Davidson: Nor anyone else.

Mr. Mancini: Another major issue which has troubled the riding of Essex South for nearly a year now is the longstanding problem of transportation for Pelee Island. Pelee Island is the most southern part of Canada. I am certainly pleased to have it in the riding of Essex South, and I am certainly pleased to represent the fine group of residents on Pelee Island. There are only about 250 there, and it is really a unique situation; I think the island has to be treated as such.

Mr. Samis: What about the schools there, Remo?

Mr. Mancini: That is why I feel it is very important that the Ministry of Transportation and Communications does not back off its long-standing promise that it would ensure a good transportation system for Pelee Island. And on July 2, 1976, I received a letter from the Minister of Transportation and Com-

munications (Mr. Snow). I would like to read parts of it: "This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated June 11 concerning the improvement of transportation from Pelee Island to the mainland. As you are perhaps aware, the ferry service is viewed as a continuation of the road system. The policy of my ministry regarding ferry service in this province is first of all to encourage private undertakings wherever possible. Only in the event that the private service is not available, the following guidelines are to be adopted:

"1. International ferry services are the full responsibility of the federal government."

I would just like to say that the federal government is now carrying out its responsibility, and is providing one boat which travels between Sandusky, Ohio, Pelee Island and the mainland.

"2. Interprovincial ferry services are the joint responsibility of the two provinces concerned.

"3. Interprovincial ferry services are a provincial-municipal responsibility, with cost allocation based on function and road jurisdiction served."

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, even the Minister of Transportation and Communications knows that transportation between Pelee Island and the mainland is the sole responsibility of the municipality and the province. We also know that the province does give an 80 per cent subsidy for any deficit incurred, but we also know that there are some areas of the province where the whole 100 per cent of the deficit incurred is paid by the province. And surely we know that the people of Pelee Island must come under that second statement, that 100 per cent of the deficit incurred must be paid by the province. It's a poor municipality and it certainly can't afford to pay any deficit in its transportation system.

Before I leave this subject, I would just like to mention that we will be having a meeting soon with the Minister of Transportation and Communications and the federal minister, Otto Lang, concerning this particular situation. I certainly hope that the next time I have the privilege of rising in the Throne Speech debate, I will be able to say that the Ontario government did take action and did provide the people of Pelee Island with adequate transportation service as they do require.

Also concerning Pelee Island, I would like to mention the problem that the new regulations concerning bingos are going to

bring about. I would like to read part of a letter that I received recently from one of the leading citizens of the Pelee Island area; he is the principal of the school there, a Mr. Wayne Bedal. He is very concerned that the new regulations do not allow people under 16 to participate in bingos. He states very clearly in his letter that there is almost no form of entertainment on the island because of the size of the population. The bingos, which they hold on regular occasions to support their campaign club, are a form of recreation where all the people on Pelee Island have participated in the past and have used the evening of bingo as a family night outing. We certainly would be remiss if Pelee Island was not given special consideration and if they were not allowed to continue as they have in the past. If we don't look at this very closely, and if we don't allow this to continue as it has, I think we are making a very serious mistake.

I would also like to mention some of the problems that the farmers in my area are having. As you know, Mr. Speaker, on April 6 I raised the matter in the Legislature con-

cerning why farmers have to pay more for their gasoline when they are buying in bulk than they do at the retail level. Surely we can get a better answer out of the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) than him always attacking the federal government. I have seen many occasions when we in the opposition have asked the Minister of Agriculture and Food to intervene or to take some steps into correcting some problems, and his first remark is always attacking the federal Minister of Agriculture. I would just like to say that by the time he's done, if he does one-tenth for the farmers that the federal Minister of Agriculture has done, he'll be doing a heck of a lot.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Perhaps if the hon. member is not near his concluding remarks he would adjourn the debate at the appropriate time.

On motion by Mr. Mancini, the debate was adjourned.

On motion by Hon. Mr. McKeough, the House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Ontario

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Fourth Session, 30th Parliament

Friday, April 15, 1977

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, Q.C.

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1977

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

PARTNERSHIP FOR PROSPERITY

Hon. Mr. Welch: With the Ontario economic conference, Partnership for Prosperity, last February the government began a process of involving all segments of Ontario society in extensive consultation on what the province should be doing to ensure a continuing moderation of inflation after the national anti-inflation programme has been removed.

The Premier (Mr. Davis) suggested at that time that these discussions would continue. In the Speech from the Throne it was indicated that Ontario has set in motion a series of steps which would build upon February's successful initiative.

I would like to indicate this morning that the Premier and some of our colleagues are engaged in extensive discussions with a representative group of individuals coming from a broad range of backgrounds in Ontario—in business, labour, agriculture and other segments of our society. They will be meeting in private session throughout the day to deal specifically with the issues which will affect our immediate and long-term prosperity in this province. We don't expect a consensus or any concrete decisions to come out of these discussions today, but we do expect to receive substantial and useful advice to assist us in solving the problems with which the government must deal.

ENERGY REPORT

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, today I am tabling a report entitled Ontario's Energy Future. I believe it to be the most comprehensive report ever undertaken on this subject.

Mr. Deans: This is the second day in a row.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It examines the prospect of continued sources of non-renewable energy and concludes that there is little prospect that they can be maintained at the present rate of consumption for more than another quarter of a century.

Mr. Sargent: We're sure glad you're there, then.

Mr. Renwick: Bad management.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It further concludes that the world supply of crude oil and natural gas will be essentially depleted by the year 2025. Obviously, this has crucial implications for Ontario, as it has for all industrialized communities of the world. It is evident that we must be very prudent in the use of these depleting resources. It is equally evident that we must intensify our efforts to produce energy from renewable sources.

Mr. Lewis: That's really stunning and profound stuff.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The capital and technological requirements for the development of renewable energy sources are so massive that it will require a world-wide commitment.

The report I am tabling today imposes a time frame for policy planning. It suggests a near term during which we will be largely dependent upon fossil fuels and uranium. We will be almost entirely dependent upon fossil fuels until the end of this century. In the first quarter of the next century, we will gradually shift toward increasing reliance upon renewable or very long-term resources.

The final phase, the long term, will stretch beyond the first quarter of the next century. It will be an era in which we will have shifted to a primary dependence upon renewable energy forms.

Between the near term and the long term will be a vitally important transitional phase. As the name implies, this phase should be marked by a gradual planned shift toward a growing reliance upon renewable energy sources.

Mr. Lewis: This really is such simplistic pap!

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The use of such a three-phase planning framework makes very explicit the timing of the choices that will have to be made. Commitments must be made in regard to such proposals as the construction of additional heavy oils and oil sands plants, the secondary and tertiary recovery of existing crude oil, transportation systems, and new initiatives in exploration and development. These are crucially important decisions that must be made now.

Commitments must also be made in regard to the expansion of research, development and demonstration projects that are designed to establish the means of economically producing energy in commercial quantities from renewable sources.

Mr. Mackenzie: Where have you been for 20 years?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Clearly, Mr. Speaker, we must solicit and gain the support and co-operation of the general public, the private sector, of other provinces, and of the government of Canada.

Mr. Sargent: What a bunch of nonsense you are reading. Why don't you sit down, it doesn't mean a damn thing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The co-operative programme that resulted in the development of the Canadian heavy water natural uranium generating processes, Candu, may be one model for research for the transitional phase; and the Syncrude project may provide another model for the development of the urgent requirements of the near term.

To this end, the report suggests a Canadian council of energy ministers be established. Above all else, we must provide the economic, financial and social environment in which our domestic energy resources can be developed as a national priority.

Mr. Lewis: That's profound.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The report arrives at 26 conclusions relating to the prospective supply-and-demand relationships of conventional fuels; some necessary developments related to the near term; the growing urgency of conservation and improved efficiency in energy use; and the pressing requirements of moving toward a transition to the renewable energy sources of the future.

Mr. Sargent: You're wasting the time of the House. You don't understand it yourself.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Let me say in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, that I do not expect everybody to agree with everything in the report.

Mr. Davidson: If this is the best report the other one must have been terrible.

Mr. Sargent: Do you understand what you're saying?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It is my expectation, however, that in addition to providing a prospective policy framework the report will result in increased public knowledge and discussion of the implications of energy to our future lifestyle, the designing of our communities—

Mr. Mackenzie: The public's 20 years ahead.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —the industrial and economic prospects of the province and changes in our society that will have to be effected in the decades ahead.

Printed copies of the report will be available on Monday for all members and the public.

Mr. Renwick: That's too late.

NORTHERN AIRPORTS

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to inform the House this morning that I will be introducing a bill to amend The Airports Act, a bill aimed at broadening the wording of the present Act.

The ministry has been constructing airports in the remote north for some years now; and, in fact, there are 11 in operation at settlements such as Fort Severn, Attawapiskat, Fort Albany, Pickle Lake, and Big Trout Lake.

The new bill will make it clear that my ministry has the authority to lease lands or facilities at these airports—not simply construct, operate and maintain airports as we have been doing.

Leasing land and/or facilities to individuals or corporations, I feel, will increase the usefulness of those airports already in operation as well as those still in the planning or construction stages. I am thinking, for example, of carriers which could then build hangars for the maintenance of their aircraft, or oil companies which could erect petroleum

storage tanks on our airport properties. Both would obviously provide better service in northern locations.

For some years now, MTC has been subsidizing the construction of municipal airports in northern Ontario at places such as Atikokan, Chapleau, Cochrane, Kirkland Lake, Wawa and Sioux Lookout. Some municipalities have found the costs of maintaining and operating them, once built, a strain on their financial resources. I am referring particularly to communities that now have regularly scheduled air service, such as norOntair, which requires a continuous high standard of maintenance.

The new bill will confirm the government's authority to subsidize maintenance and operational costs of such airports as may be approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

FOREST FIRES

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, some hon. members have inquired about the preparations my ministry has made to meet the severe forest fire situation which could develop this summer. This is a potential problem with implications throughout the province, as well as possible effects on the communities, industries and the overall economy of the north.

I welcome this opportunity to provide details of steps we are taking to cope with this potentially serious situation. As the members may recall, last summer's forest fires burned some 1¼ million acres, and the direct costs to deal with those fires amounted to over \$20 million.

As we have been publicizing, the prolonged drought of the past two years has continued in the north, particularly in the area west of Lake Nipigon to the Manitoba border. Water in the lakes and streams in this area is well below normal levels, and the layer of heavy fuels in the area—meaning muskeg and the heavy slash on the surface of the ground—has dried out to a considerable depth, in some cases to 10 feet. Consequently, when fires start they will be difficult to put out. It would take six inches of rain to bring the area back to near normal, and weather experts feel the chances of this happening are remote.

Our latest report is that only six fires are still burning underground, mainly in the Fort Frances and Rainy River area. My staff feels those will be out during this week. The other fires were either extinguished by ministry staff or went out during the spring runoff. However, the general situation is still acute.

[10:15]

To prepare for this potential threat, we have taken the following steps: A total of \$7 million in new funds has been allocated to fire prevention and firefighting this year. This is in addition to the basic allocation of \$14 million—in other words, 50 per cent more. About \$300,000 of this amount is being used for an intensive prevention programme in the northwest to alert all forest users about the danger. The campaign includes posters, brochures, advertisements and school visits by staff.

To further bolster the prevention programme I declared a ban on campfires in northwestern Ontario as of April 1. This ban does not restrict travel or recreation in the bush, but can do much to reduce the incidence of man-made fires which might get out of control and threaten the woodlands.

Two hundred thousand dollars has been allocated to provide a more flexible fire detection programme. These funds will allow us to put more aircraft in the air for detection, and a portion is being used for infrared equipment on planes to locate hard to find fires.

For the critical burning period, four water-bombing Cansos have been hired, as well as 13 helicopters, on long-term contract.

About 200 extra persons have been taken on to assist our regular fire crews during the summer months. These extra persons are now in training.

About \$1 million of the additional funds has been used to purchase forest fire equipment, ranging all the way from firefighting tools, hose and pumps to tents, cooking equipment and sleeping bags.

A number of fire-experienced personnel in my ministry, normally involved in other activities, has been temporarily transferred to the fire control programme to ensure that adequate direction is given to the prevention and firefighting activities. But we expect only minimal interference with our other ministry programmes, such as forest regeneration, fish and wildlife management, parks and mines management; that is if our plans work out and nature doesn't throw us some nasty, unexpected curves.

The approach used in this year's operation is to concentrate on initial attack so that, as much as possible, large fires will be prevented from breaking out. The idea is to get there quickly and keep the fires small. It's the large fires that are so costly and force us to bring in other ministry staff to help out. We have planned our strategy and used our funds so

that the firefighting resources are deployed in all vulnerable areas. This should reduce the moving of people and equipment from one area to another, which was done in previous seasons.

We also hope that our plans will enable the various forest-using industries to function normally with little interference from forest fires. Of course, if any major outbreaks occur despite our best efforts, companies operating on Crown lands may be asked to assist in suppression activities.

It is natural for communities in the affected areas in the north to be concerned about the potential threat. But let me assure everyone that our plans are to go in anywhere to help when needed. Traditionally, towns, municipalities and improvement districts are responsible for fires on private lands, except where they have made agreements for my ministry to automatically step in. But we are aware that many communities do not have the people or the equipment to cope with major outbreaks, and we are ready to help out.

In addition, I might remind you, Mr. Speaker, that our fire control staff have a standing offer to any community to help train their people in firefighting techniques.

To sum up, the potential danger is great for the 1977 forest fire season because of conditions that have prevailed for some time. The concern felt in all parts of the province is quite valid, and we have spent the months since the last fire season preparing for this one.

I can say to you, Mr. Speaker, that my ministry is doing its utmost to prevent serious fires from breaking out and, if they do break out, to get them under control with the utmost dispatch. If all sides work together under our leadership we have a solid chance of getting through this forest fire season in good shape.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, may I, on an opening point of order, simply raise the observation that there are only six members of the cabinet here and that a number of the ministers to whom questions would appropriately be put are not here, and that that, you might convey, sir, is really not desirable.

Mr. Ruston: They're getting reserves in, Stephen.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: They may all be off drafting the terms of reference, Mr. Speaker, to accommodate us.

ENERGY REPORT

Mr. Lewis: May I, therefore, with enormous reluctance, and a total sense of futility, ask a question of the Minister of Energy. May I ask the minister, in the kindest way, when is he going to stop producing reports which simply reiterate the truths which all of us have heard 100 times over; and when will he stop producing reports that place the Ministry of Energy in the position of lackey to the thrust of Ontario Hydro? And when will the minister come in here with some specifics about what he intends to do in the way of renewable energy resources, rather than these meaningless futuristic documents?

Mr. Mackenzie: Like the Ministry of Energy—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I gather the Leader of the Opposition wants me to respond to that tirade.

Mr. Lewis: Yes.

Mr. Kerrio: Thirty-five years of fumbling.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Because, in my estimation, it merely manifests an infinite unconcern about Ontario's energy future.

Mr. Moffatt: Strike two.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the Leader of the Opposition first take time to read this report.

Mr. Lewis: I have read the report.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: And then possibly he could come forward with some constructive—

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have read the report. It takes only 15 or 20 minutes to read; I read it very quickly between 10:00 and 10:15.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is there a further question?

Mr. Lewis: There is nothing in it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: His reading of it obviously hasn't involved comprehension.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Could we have a more meaningful question period?

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary, in a very specific way: Isn't this report simply the usual apologia—as you can see from its content—on our dependence on nuclear technology for the next 25 years, which everybody understands? Isn't this report simply a repeti-

tion of recommendation 17 that prices to the consumer will have to go up—which your government, as always, grants? Isn't this report a recognition that the minister doesn't have anything specific in the field of renewable energy resources that he is prepared to talk about in concrete ways? Why does he produce such documents?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, may I explain to the Leader of the Opposition that when you are talking about electrical energy, you are probably talking about less than a third of our energy.

Mr. Lewis: Of course.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: And this report covers the whole field of energy, not just electrical energy. If the Leader of the Opposition would look at that report and picture, if he can, the position of Ontario in the energy—

Mr. Lewis: We know the position.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —the whole field of energy.

Mr. Lewis: We know that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The fact that Ontario imports 80 per cent of its energy—

Mr. Lewis: We know that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The fact that Ontario—

Mr. Lewis: What is the minister going to do about it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The fact that Ontario has been advocating and is advocating action now—let's face it—

An hon. member: Like what?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —it's essential to establish an overall policy throughout Canada that is more than paper, but implementation of a programme.

Mr. Breithaupt: What are you doing?

An hon. member: Try your friend Lougheed.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Is the Leader of the Opposition interested in a dissertation on this, because I can take him through the steps as to what should be done in Canada?

Mr. Breithaupt: The federal government is at fault, I suppose.

An hon. member: You believe in motherhood too.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I can tell him what Ontario's goal is, what Ontario has been doing and what we are urging others to do.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If the hon. member wishes, I would be delighted to take the time to lead him step by step through that so that he could have a greater appreciation and comprehension of our problems, instead of dealing with this matter in such a casual and irresponsible way.

Mr. Lewis: The minister has said it all before.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is not a time for a general discussion of the whole energy field or whatever it might be. This is time for questions and answers. Now, there has been a main question asked here.

Mr. Lewis: No further questions.

Mr. Reed: Supplementary: I would like to ask the minister, how does he manage, in a report of this nature, to totally discount the potential for renewable resources—he does it here, in conclusion No. 9—when even the federal energy administration in the United States is projecting a solar component as one of the renewables—as the minister knows, it's only one—a solar component of 25 per cent by the year 2020. How does the minister manage to discount renewable resources totally in this report?

Mr. S. Smith: That's right.

Mr. Lewis: You say one per cent in this report.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, the area of renewable resources is not discounted.

Mr. Lewis: They are, they are.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: They certainly are not. And if one looks to the future—

Mr. Lewis: We have looked.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You can't even look to the future.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If one looks to the future, that is the thrust. One must distinguish too what one may be considering as solar energy in terms of electrical energy, and solar energy

used for space heating or for water heating. There's no way the United States is going to substitute solar energy for 25 per cent of its energy requirements by the end of this century.

Mr. Reed: The federal energy administration has set a goal.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It is preposterous.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, this is not a debating period, I will remind the hon. members again.

Mr. Moffatt: Supplementary: In conclusion No. 16 in the report, the minister indicates it is inequitable to consumers and irrational in terms of industrial development to escalate prices in an attempt to reduce energy consumption. Yet, through the other recommendations, there's no mention of any concrete positive steps that his government will take in order to conserve energy in any form at this point. Does it not make sense to the minister that if that statement is true, then it is necessary that we conserve the resources we have at present.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, if my friend would read the report he would see that the whole area of conservation is implicit in that report.

Mr. Moffatt: I have read the report.

Mr. Laughren: Implicit, but not explicit.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The members on the other side may believe in punitive pricing in the name of conservation.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, come on.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let's not get into a general discussion.

Mr. Moffatt: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the minister has just indicated that a statement contrary to the one I have just made is in the report. I'd like the minister to tell me which conclusion specifically talks about conservation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, this is beginning to be a debate.

Mr. Lewis: I have another question. It is a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: No, we'll go to a new question. We'll call on the Leader of the Opposition for his second question.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, could I ask you who is the acting House leader? I want to place a question.

Mr. Deans: The Minister of Energy.

Mr. Reid: Will the guilty one please stand up?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest the hon. Leader of the Opposition ask one of the ministers and if the answer is not forthcoming they can transmit it.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, this is a joke.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member take his seat? The hon. Leader of the Opposition will continue.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, I have in front of me a letter addressed to the Hon. Pauline McGibbon dealing with the apparent resignation from the North Pickering royal commission of Mr. David Humphrey, one of the commissioners. It was just handed to me. It is obviously a matter of urgent importance. I would like to know which minister is acting as the acting House leader in the absence of the House leader (Mr. Welch), the Premier (Mr. Davis), the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) and many others, so I can put a question.

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest we give the hon. Leader of the Opposition the opportunity to come back to that question if the House leader returns?

Mr. Lewis: No, who is the acting House leader?

Mr. S. Smith: There has to be a House leader.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I can't produce bodies, I must confess.

Mr. Ferris: And the ones they sent are disgusting.

Some hon. members: Adjourn the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We don't need all that advice, either. If there is a minister here you may ask your question of him. Is there a further question now?

Mr. Lewis: May I ask—

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. S. Smith: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I move the adjournment of the House.

Mr. Cunningham: If you ring the bells you might get them.

Mr. Sweeney: This morning is a joke.

Mr. Speaker: May I just remind the hon. members that this is just a head count, not a recorded vote.

[10:50]

The House divided on Mr. Smith's motion to adjourn the House, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes 20; nays 49.

Mr. Speaker: We will continue with the question period, there are about 49½ minutes left.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, we are wasting time now. Order.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition, I believe, had a final question.

NORTH PICKERING PROJECT

Mr. Lewis: Well, Mr. Speaker, the motion having achieved its desired effect, may I put to the Premier the following question:

Can we ask the Premier for direct and immediate attention to the resignation of David G. Humphrey as a commissioner in the North Pickering royal commission, which resignation has been tendered to the Hon. Pauline McGibbon, making the point in his letter of resignation that this hearing is not in the best interests of the participants, the public, or for that matter anyone? "It is clearly on a collision course with the proceedings at present being conducted by the Ombudsman under The Ombudsman Act," et cetera; and obviously requires from the government an earnest and speedy reconciliation. Can the Premier act on it?

Hon. Mr. Davis: In that the letter was not addressed to me, I have no immediate reply. I expect I will be getting a copy of the letter, at which time I will consider it, and I or the appropriate minister will be delighted to tell the House what our view of it is. I know nothing about it; I haven't seen Mr. Humphrey's letter.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, if I may: Since the contents of Mr. Humphrey's

letter mirror almost exactly the observations of the second report of the select committee on the Ombudsman, indicating that everything will grind to a halt, there will be undue delays and total unfairness in the way the government has structured the inquiry commission in Pickering, can the Premier use this letter as a recourse for the appointment of a single commissioner, so that some justice can be provided for the claimants and the people affected?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, we're interested in seeing this matter brought to a conclusion. If the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting that a single commissioner rather than—and I think there were some discussions with the Ombudsman; we make every effort to accommodate the views of everybody on these issues—if the Leader of the Opposition is saying that a single person commission is more acceptable, I find that interesting. I find it intriguing. I obviously can't give any commitment until we have a chance to assess what Mr. Humphrey has said and his obvious point of view. As I say, I have not received his letter. I don't know anything about it; he's never discussed it with me. I'm not saying he should have, but he hasn't.

Mr. Singer: Supplementary: Mr. Speaker: Would the Premier not agree that since Mr. Humphrey has resigned, that commission is functus—that commission is over—and there is no way, observing the natural course of justice, that it can continue. Having arrived at that point, would the Premier not agree it is most important to immediately reconstitute some form of inquiry with entirely new commissioners so we can get on with the important business that started this problem?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I can't express as immediate a legal opinion as the member for Wilson Heights that by the resignation of one member of the commission that commission then, in law, is no longer in existence. I don't have that instant legal knowledge available to me—

Mr. Singer: I said it's functus—you can't carry on.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I don't want to get into an argument in Latin with the hon. member. I don't know whether it's functus or not functus. I think it's a question of whether it still has the legal authority to do business or not do business.

Mr. Singer: Fine.

Hon. Mr. Davis: All right. In that I do not, and am not in a position to come up with an immediate legal opinion on a matter about which I knew nothing until two minutes ago; I must confess I don't have the same degree of legal knowledge available to me as the member for Wilson Heights. I bow to his great expertise. However, I will—

Mr. Breithaupt: That wouldn't stop the Attorney General.

Mr. Sargent: Ask McMurtry, he'll tell you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I got my QC a year or two before him; that doesn't mean anything.

Mr. MacDonald: You're right.

Mr. Reid: That's the truth.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Doesn't mean a thing. If the member for Kitchener got his it means even less.

Mr. Breithaupt: I know, but they were based on merit in my year.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, they were based on merit when he got his? Well, I wouldn't argue that for a moment. Let him tell his leader the rules of the House some day and he will perform a valid function.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Could we ignore the interjections?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, no more interjections.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, by way of a supplementary question, when he is considering the letter from Mr. Humphrey and the second report of the select committee, will the Premier consider the reconstruction of the commission to appoint (a) a single commissioner; (b) that the commissioner so appointed be advised or instructed to retain counsel for the commission—which is an omission in the present commission; and (c) will the terms of reference of the Order in Council be amended to delete the phrase "of proceedings of an adversarial nature." If those three steps can be taken, perhaps the matter can be concluded.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to consider anything that is reasonable. I'm only going by memory but my best recollection is that the suggestion for more than a single commissioner really didn't emanate from us.

Mr. Renwick: I agree.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'm glad you agree.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Humphrey would be excellent.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well that is debatable.

Mr. Lewis: Are you besmirching him?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No. I'm not.

Mr. Singer: Supplementary: May I have the Premier's attention? Accepting the Premier's statement, Mr. Speaker, that the government was not aware of this until this morning, would the Premier not agree that this is a matter of sufficient urgency that the government should make every effort to resolve the situation, perhaps by Monday?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, this government makes an effort to resolve every significant issue as expeditiously as possible. Now we're delayed from time to time by some members opposite, but we do make every effort to move as expeditiously as we can.

Mr. S. Smith: Come on, come on; at your salaries you can be here Friday morning.

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Mr. Davis: On a point of order. The leader of the Liberal Party has made some suggestion that it is my responsibility to be here on Friday morning.

Mr. S. Smith: Not yours, your cabinet.

[11:00]

Hon. Mr. Davis: I acknowledge that, and I want to inform him, in case he didn't hear the statement by the House leader, that I was about 100 yards away at what I regard to be a relatively—in fact I think significantly—important meeting for the public of this province.

Mr. Lewis: Where were your colleagues?

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is my responsibility to be chairing that particular meeting. I would say to the leader of the Liberal Party I was on a matter of public responsibility. I wasn't in Brampton, Hamilton or Windsor playing tennis.

Mr. Breithaupt: I hope the other 20 cabinet members were as well.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. S. Smith: On a point of privilege, I took the Premier's remarks to be personally insulting, Mr. Speaker. I would like to tell you the interjection to which he responded was: "At the salaries of your cabinet they could all be here in the morning." It did not suggest that the Premier was doing something other than the public business. It suggested that somebody else should have been in the House conducting the business of the House for the government.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think this should be the end to that matter.

Mr. Lewis: Why?

Mrs. Campbell: Why?

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, I would like to ask the Speaker whether he might not directly intervene to suggest the value of cabinet attending in larger numbers on a Friday morning and in the process tell the Premier that these little delays and these little moments of controversy will not an election make. He will have to work a lot harder at it than that.

Mr. S. Smith: That's right.

Mr. Speaker: I think we should get on with the business of the House.

Mr. Lewis: Just by the by, you are going to have to work a lot harder on these devices, a lot harder than that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You can vote against us Monday night.

An hon. member: We will.

Mr. Reid: I bet you will all be here Monday night.

Mr. Breithaupt: So will we.

Hon. Mr. Davis: So will you, and I know how you will vote.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

BARRIE ANNEXATION PROPOSAL

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Premier: When the government accepted, as reported by the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) in his letter to the OMB, the Simcoe-Georgian task force

report on the Barrie urban study boundaries, could the Premier tell us whether in accepting that task force report the government was accepting the actual boundaries suggested in that report, even though that report indicates that there is an excess of some 14,000 to 18,000 acres of what would normally be required, even for a population of 125,000?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am sure the Treasurer would be delighted to answer that question for the hon. member.

Mrs. Campbell: If he were here.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I somehow sense that a question somewhat similar to that was asked yesterday. If it wasn't, I am intrigued to know why it wasn't.

Mr. S. Smith: It is a different one.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Anyway the Treasurer will be delighted to answer that for the member. He might even call him a little later on. He is at the PMLC meeting at this moment. I am sure he would be quite prepared to enlighten him some time later on this morning.

Mr. Breithaupt: It should be answered in Hansard.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary—this was a different question today from the one asked the other day, and I am still waiting for answers to all of them—could the Premier, when he is speaking with the Treasurer, kindly ask him as well to explain why it is that the government would consider accepting boundaries that are 18,000 acres too large, knowing that most of that land is prime agricultural land, in direct violation of the so-called green paper?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I just have a note that the substitute chairman at the meeting down the hall is doing so well that I am excused for another few minutes. I will be delighted to acquaint the Treasurer with the member's question.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: Since what we have at stake is another 9,000 acres of prime agricultural land, which is clearly and absolutely unnecessary for any population expansion in the area, why is the government prepared to allow the Barrie-Innisfil amalgamation to become another symbol of the Niagara regional kind, rather than intervening now and saying that government policy and the guidelines must be conformed with?

Hon. Mr. Davis: If the Leader of the Opposition is anxious for another symbol that is his business. We are not interested in symbols. We are interested in practical solutions to problems that the people of this province face.

Mr. Lewis: You are letting this agricultural land go.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We are interested in practical solutions to the problems we face.

Mr. Lewis: What about your own policies?

Mr. Kerrio: Supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: No, the member for Hamilton West. We are getting into a debate here again.

Mrs. Campbell: We are not allowed to?

WOMEN CROWN EMPLOYEES

Mr. S. Smith: A question for the Minister of Labour, on a different topic, Mr. Speaker: In view of the recently issued second annual report on the status of women Crown employees, stating that more than half a million dollars—I gather it is more than \$645,000—has been spent on the so-called affirmative action programme and that this has resulted in only 130 significant advancements achieved in the female labour force of 25,832 people, can the minister explain how the spending of \$645,000 to improve the lot of about 130 people can be justified?

Hon. B. Stephenson: The expenditure is not related only to those women who have made the decision to move from the traditional jobs for females within the Crown employee situation, Mr. Speaker. It also relates to expenditures for seminars, for all women employees in the ministries, to encourage them to consider this kind of activity, to provide them with the kind of stimuli which many of the young women need to make decisions about careers which are different from those which are traditionally chosen.

I think it is money very well spent, because the women who have been involved in the programmes are enthusiastic about them and I am sure that the hon. member will see next year that there will be a very much larger number of women Crown employees who will be moving from the traditional job positions for females to others through the bridging system which has been developed in almost all ministries.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, could the minister undertake to table as soon as possible—or perhaps she already has the information and can tell us now—how many women in the whole government are currently on the list of senior appointments; that is, executive director or higher? How many women are on that list, compared to the total number of employees at that level or above?

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, I can't tell the hon. member precisely at this moment, but I shall find out.

Ms. Bryden: Supplementary: May I ask the minister how much of this money is being spent on informing the members of the public service about the affirmative action programmes and the seminars?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I believe that most of this money is being spent on the information process, which is both in printed form and in verbal form, as the hon. member knows, through the women's co-ordinators in the various ministries.

Mr. S. Smith: As a final supplementary, would the minister contact her colleague, the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth), on this particular topic and ask him for an explanation as to why it is that so few women have been appointed police commissioners in the province of Ontario, despite his promise to increase that particular number?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes.

FOREST FIRES

Mr. Foulds: A new question of the Minister of Natural Resources as a result of his statement this morning.

Mr. Mancini: Welcome back, Jim. Nice to have you.

Mr. Sargent: Welcome back, Jimmy.

Mr. Foulds: Thank you. Could the minister—how does it feel to inherit his predecessor's accumulated slash as one of the problems—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Could we ask a question of urgent public importance?

Interjections.

Mr. Foulds: On a more serious note, Mr. Speaker, is it true—

Mr. Lewis: You will never make it in this ministry, Frank. Never.

Mr. Foulds: Is it true, as the minister's statement seems to indicate, that heavy slash is one of the major dangers that faces us with regard to forest fires, as well as being one of the major impediments to his ministry's reforestation programme? Further, could the minister indicate why he is so optimistic that minimal interference with other ministry programmes or activities will take place? And could he describe the nasty tricks of nature? Do those nasty tricks of nature include the continuation of the drought?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The hon. member is just leading with his chin on that last one. The nasty tricks of nature often sit opposite me.

(Applause.)

Mr. MacDonald: That impressed the minister's colleagues.

Mr. Speaker: Now, could we get back to business? Order.

Mr. Lewis: That is more in order than anything that has happened in the last 24 hours.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That's right.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. minister answer the question?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I hope the member has received the material I sent him. I also sent a second copy—I didn't know whether he was the official critic or not—so he now has two copies of the same material, I would assume.

Mr. Reid: He has read them both.

Hon. F. S. Miller: To be sure, we sent him the material on the drought situation up north, and I think he will find it delineates three types of risk in the forest: The very sensitive small brush and material that can really change from day to day in its fire sensitivity; the first few inches of the soil, which takes several days to either dry out or recover; and of course the deeper ground. Our problem in the north is that through natural decay, wind action, previous fires—all kinds of things—there's a lot of material buried under the subsoil which traditionally would not likely burn, but this year it might so the risks are very high.

Now I go on to the next part of the question—how can I be sure that the other programmes of the ministry will go on? I think you have to realize that the key people we are asking to transfer are those who can supervise fires. Therefore, it's not the great

number of people carrying out the regular programmes of the ministry, but ones already in those activities who are trained in fire-fighting. We've also set a pecking order for which ones go first; and the ones that go last are those involved in reforestation. That is, to me, the most important of the programmes to be maintained this summer. I hope that with that kind of explanation, I can be reasonably sure that the important programmes are carried out whilst we have people on a standby for a transfer for forest firefighting.

Mr. Foulds: One quick supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is there any co-ordination between your ministry and the Fire Marshal's office under the Solicitor General; particularly with regard to the minimal programmes that that ministry has in training of volunteer fire departments in unorganized territories? I understand they only have two people to train those volunteer fire departments which are responsible for fighting fires in unorganized territories, fires that could escalate into major forest fires which would be the responsibility of the ministry.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'm sure the member knows that we have agreements with many municipalities, and I assume if they're unorganized—

Mr. Foulds: Unorganized.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The reason they are unorganized is that the land is Crown land. We charge five cents an acre to take over the forest fire responsibility for a township's private land. That's a pretty cheap fee to transfer the responsibility for firefighting to the Crown. Even if that five cents per acre isn't agreed to in advance by any form of municipal government, and a fire starts on private land, our people are available to go in and fight it, simply because it often extends quickly to our land. If that happens, we'll charge back the full, direct costs to any existing municipality. So I would suggest to municipalities which think they shouldn't spend a nickel per acre that they surely should, and thus transfer a great deal of responsibility. But, in addition, in the statement you may have noticed that we offered to train those people. Our ministry offered to train fire-fighting people for bush fires; that offer is still good.

Mr. Reid: Supplementary: In view of the fact that the minister has an extra \$1 million in equipment, will he provide some of that equipment to some of the townships in unorganized communities that don't have pumps, hoses and so on? And does he have

auxiliary plans for hiring university students and high school students in the upper grades in case more manpower is needed?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The loaning of equipment isn't a totally black or white issue, as I understand it. Under certain circumstances, it could be done but it's frowned upon, really, when in fact we can encourage the groups to have their own. The second part of the question: The 200 people I referred to in the statement are 200 stand-by people, to be well trained, hopefully, to act as group leaders to use people like school students should the fire risk become intense. Yes, we would be using them.

Mr. Laughren: Supplementary: Would the Minister of Natural Resources speak to his colleague the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) and convince him that smoke detectors are no substitute for fire-fighting equipment?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The import is lost upon me, but I'll be pleased to do so.

[11:15]

UTDC FOREIGN CONTRACTS

Mr. Cunningham: My question is for the Minister of Industry and Tourism: Given that his ministry has had some involvement in the Urban Transportation Development Corporation use of foreign sales agents, will he tell the House whether such agents are being used in deals other than the Caracas subway deal? Specifically, how many other agents is his ministry using on behalf of the UTDC; what deals they are working on; and what we're paying them?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, my ministry has not retained the services of any agents in the world market. Any agents that would have been retained would be by UTDC, and by the authority and approval of cabinet, and I know of none.

CONSUMERS ROAD INDUSTRIAL SUBDIVISION

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications: I raised with the minister in the House on Friday, April 1, by way of a question, a request for further involvement by his ministry in helping to resolve the severe traffic problems associated with the Consumers Road industrial subdivision, in view of the fact that the traffic congestion is

adversely affecting the movement of traffic on provincial Highway 404 at the Sheppard Avenue interchange.

Would the minister, in the light of the announcement on Tuesday of this week by Marathon Realty Limited to build a \$100 million office complex in the Consumers Road area, bringing thousands of more workers into the area—

Mr. Conway: Speech.

Mr. Williams: —be prepared to immediately initiate such further impact studies, discussions and action as may be necessary to ensure a final solution to the traffic congestion problem at the Don Valley Parkway-Sheppard Avenue interchange?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, my ministry officials have been working very closely with the borough of North York, the borough of Scarborough and the Metropolitan Toronto roads commission officials to try to assist them wherever possible in bringing about improvements to that particular traffic situation. The matter that the member refers to, relating to Highway 404, I was not aware of, but I will certainly have my officials look into it.

WCB CLAIMS DELAYS

Mr. Laughren: A question to the Minister of Labour: Is the minister aware that the administrative delays and bungling at the Workmen's Compensation Board have become so bad that injured workers in the Ottawa area are going to the Unemployment Insurance Commission to apply for sickness benefits rather than cope with the frustrations of dealing with the WCB?

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, Mr. Speaker, and I would truly appreciate knowing how many injured workers have been so moved.

Mr. Laughren: There shouldn't be any.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I gather that there were 10 in attendance at the meeting which was held in Ottawa yesterday.

I am aware that there have been some delays and those situations for which I have been given both the name and the compensation number of the individual, I have investigated personally in order to find out the source of the delay, because in determining where delays are occurring it is possible to concentrate the efforts to ensure that, indeed, this does not happen in the future.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary merged with a point of order, I should point out to the minister that, as usual, her facts are incorrect.

Mr. Lewis: Always; she has never got it right.

Mr. Laughren: There was 50 or 60 injured workers at that meeting, not 10.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Did the member say Ottawa or Oshawa?

Mr. Lewis: Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is that a supplementary question?

Mr. Laughren: My supplementary is this, Mr. Speaker: That not only are the injured workers going to the Unemployment Insurance Commission, but is she aware that there is almost a complete lack of vocational rehabilitation services being offered to injured workers in the Ottawa area, as well as other communities I might add?

Mr. Reid: Anywhere.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that there has been a dearth of vocational rehabilitation officers, and as a matter of fact, within the past four weeks the Workmen's Compensation Board of this province has accepted a recommendation from the rehabilitation services branch that there be a massive increase in the number of vocational rehabilitation officers. Recruiting has begun, the training programmes have begun and, indeed, the specific concern of the Workmen's Compensation Board for this part of its function is one to which it has recommitted itself.

Mr. Breithaupt: Supplementary: Of this massive number, how many in fact are being hired?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I'm not absolutely positive of the number but it seems to me it is somewhere in the region of 80 or 90.

Mr. Deans: That has never stopped you before.

Mr. Speaker: One final supplementary. The member for Nickel Belt.

Mr. Laughren: Would the minister contact the Workmen's Compensation Board and have them send, rather than the three people who are now bird-dogging our task force, people to the meeting who can count?

Mr. Lewis: That's right. Don't say anything that is given to you by the board.

Mr. Speaker: Is there no answer? All right, the member for Renfrew North.

ALGONQUIN PARK

Mr. Conway: I have a question of the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, in the absence of the Minister of Natural Resources. I would ask the secretary what is the position of the government, at this point in time, with respect to implementing that portion of the Algonquin Park master plan which calls for the complete withdrawal of the use of small outboard motors in Algonquin Provincial Park? What decision has been made on that portion of the implementation of the master plan, particularly for this coming season?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, that policy will be announced very soon.

Mr. Conway: In that regard, can the secretary perhaps tell me now, or perhaps later, on what authority the government member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Rollins) has at three public meetings announced, specifically and without equivocation, that in fact that determination has been made; and that for the third year in a row, I believe, the Algonquin Park master plan to that extent will not be complied with? What authority has he had, if any, for those protestations?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: I can't speak for the member for Hastings-Peterborough, Mr. Speaker, but as I just mentioned to the member that policy will be announced in the very near future.

Mr. Wildman: Could the minister indicate if there is any kind of time limit within which the government will require master plans for provincial parks to come into effect; or do they continue to go on and on and on, like the Lake Superior Park where it's been in effect since 1946 and we still don't have a master plan in effect?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: It's an ongoing review, Mr. Speaker. I couldn't tell the hon. member just when it will be finalized.

Mr. Speaker: One final supplementary from the member for Port Arthur.

Mr. Foulds: Is it not true that the regulations, as indicated by my colleague in the previous question, have in fact been published in the Ontario Gazette some two years ago?

And why is it those regulations are not being followed?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: The matter the hon. member has raised, about the size of the out-board motors, I believe was not one of the regulations that was published three years ago. This is a subsequent regulation.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere has a question.

STRIKE CONTROL

Mr. Warner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the Solicitor General is one of the remaining 20 people in the chamber.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; will the hon. member please state his question?

Mr. Warner: In the interests of safety, both for the policemen and those who are on strike, will the Solicitor General direct the leadership of his office toward the Metro Toronto Police Force so that mounted policemen will not be used at any strike location—in particular the present situation at Becker's milk plant in Scarborough?

Mr. Lewis: Incredible.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, it has always been my understanding that the mounted police are one of the best and safest means the police have of controlling crowds. It is their responsibility, as we all know, to keep the peace and to see that the law is enforced. If they, in their wisdom, feel that the mounted police are the best way to do it, I certainly don't intend to ask them to do otherwise.

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary from the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

Mr. Warner: Is the Solicitor General aware that the use of the horses at the Becker's milk plant, when added to the condoning of strike breakers and the Milk Marketing Board continuing to supply milk there, has heightened the potential of violence?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: No, sir.

Mr. Riddell: Do you want the farmers to drink their milk?

Mr. Breithaupt: You should use cows not horses.

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary from the member for York South.

Mr. MacDonald: May I ask the Solicitor General: When a company like Becker's, under these circumstances, request this extra kind of police protection, is there a charge made to them so that it doesn't have to be picked up by the public purse?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I don't believe so, sir. I don't know who requested the extra policemen. I don't even know if they had been requested, because generally it is a police responsibility to move in automatically when they feel there is any kind of danger that crowds may get out of control.

Mr. Lewis: Since when is a picket line—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A final supplementary.

Mr. MacDonald: In view of the fact that one of your predecessors—that goes way back, Allan Lawrence—indicated, in a strike in my area where they were bringing police in and there were no disorders at all, that he would consider the proposition of an extra charge to discourage this use of the public law enforcement agency for strictly private purposes; would the Solicitor General, in light of that, consider the matter further?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, as I said, I am not so sure where the request has come from. It is a responsibility of the police to maintain law and order and to move in where they think they can keep people from being injured. The very purpose of the presence of the police is to keep the peace.

Mr. MacDonald: Sometimes they provoke it.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: That may be so, but I will investigate this and see who has requested that the police be there. I assume it has been done at their own initiative, but I am not sure of that.

ST. NICHOLAS ARENA

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Culture and Recreation: Is the minister aware of a recent case involving the fraudulent use of \$20,000 in Wintario grants by the St. Nicholas arena in Toronto, and would he comment on the number of charges of fraud that have been levied against recipients?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The answer to the first part of that question is yes, but the matter is now, of course, before the courts and I

don't think it would be wise to discuss it. That's the only knowledge of such charges that I have at the moment.

Mr. Kerrio: Supplementary: Does the minister perform any audits on lottery grants, and how many audits have been performed, if any, on the \$111 million in grants in 1975?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, so there is no misunderstanding, commitments are one thing, the actual cash flow is another. I think the member would understand that.

Mr. Ferris: You are not kidding.

Mr. Riddell: We know that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Naturally people are very anxious to have the commitment in order to go to the private sector. We do have procedures for spot checks as far as audit is concerned. I don't have that detail here with me, but I would be glad to provide that for the member.

QUEBEC WORKERS

Mr. Samis: A question to the Minister of Labour: In view of the ongoing problem of Quebec workers, especially in the building trades, working in Ontario and taking away jobs from tradesmen in this province, can the minister tell us what her ministry is doing to try and solve this long standing problem?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, we have had over the past year discussions with the officials of the Ministry of Labour in the province of Quebec and, on at least one occasion, a discussion with the then Minister of Labour. The difficulty is that, of course, the province of Quebec has been less welcoming to Ontario workers than Ontario has been to Quebec workers and there is no border. One does not require a passport to cross the Ottawa river.

It is a difficult problem, one where I think a frontal attack upon at this stage of the game might, indeed, enhance the spirit of conflict and confrontation which is presently there, but we are continuing to examine it. One of our ministry officials has made a specific personal examination of the problems inherent therein. We have had preliminary discussions about that examination within the ministry and it is presently under review in our ministry.

Mr. Samis: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that this problem has been with us for many years, and in view of the fact that three successive governments in Quebec have taken a pretty well identical stand—two of those governments being strongly federalist—is the minister prepared to take any action whatsoever, if the talks prove unsuccessful, to introduce parallel legislation to protect Ontario tradesmen?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am not really sure that introducing that kind of legislation would be in the best interests of Canada. However, it would hopefully, serve the purpose of improving employment opportunities for Ontario workers within the Ottawa-Hull region, which is the major problem. We have the same kind of difficulty, as I am sure the hon. member knows, on the other border, where we have at the present time approximately 900 workers from the United States working in Sarnia. There is, of course, some slightly different basis in factual reason for it, but the effect is exactly the same. They are not problems which are easy to solve. We have discussed those which we have on the Quebec-Ontario border with the Minister of Labour of Canada, and will be discussing them with him again next week, because we hope he might be able to help us to resolve at least some of the difficulties. The extra requirements which the Quebec government has instituted over the past many years are, indeed, I think not the kinds of procedures which the Ontario government should consider, particularly at this time.

[11:30]

Mr. Conway: Supplementary: Has the Minister of Labour seen, for example, the reciprocal agreement arrived at in November, 1975, I believe, with the corresponding ministers of transportation and communications for the two provinces? Is she contemplating that kind of an arrangement to redress the irritations to which my hon. friend from Cornwall has made reference?

Hon. B. Stephenson: That was exactly the kind of procedure that we were attempting to develop. It has not been a receptive group in the Ministry of Labour on the other side of the Ottawa river, and they have not looked with favour upon that kind of situation.

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES

Mr. Sargent: This will be a three-part question, like the member for Oriole (Mr. Wil-

liams) had a few minutes ago. It was to have gone to the Premier, but it's hard to find anyone with any authority.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member just place his question, please?

Mr. Sargent: So I'll give it to the Minister of Industry and Tourism, who has as little authority as anybody I know.

Interjections.

Mr. Sargent: In view of the statement in the Toronto Star yesterday that the current policy of the government is the same old remedy of fighting inflation on the backs of the unemployed, and since the minister is involved in industry, hopefully—

Mr. Grossman: Question.

Mr. Sargent: —in view of the fact that in 1975, when inflation was raging unchecked, this government body in two budgets just prior to the election to stimulate the economy, included \$500 million in election gimmicks; in view of the fact that today—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member not build up a long case? Will he ask his question? Thank you.

Mrs. Campbell: Don't embarrass the government.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, you allowed the member for Oriole to go on for about five minutes, and I'm trying to put my question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Sargent: It's about the unemployed people of this province. Have some heart up there.

Mrs. Campbell: Exactly.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I point out to all hon. members that most of the questions are too long and many of the answers are too long as well.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member please refrain from the comments he's making, if he wishes to continue? Will he continue now and ask his question?

Mr. Sargent: Today we have control over inflation for the next year or so. In this time of emergency, when 300,000 people in Ontario are in desperate need of a job and thousands of high school students are coming on stream in another few weeks and university students—

Mr. Sweeney: It's 700,000.

Mr. Sargent: —I want the Minister of Industry and Tourism, to give him a job to do for once and to prove something, to tell me why the government can't immediately put some of the \$600 million it has going into parkway or other land acquisition or some of the \$100 million it's going to pay to Syncrude into creating jobs? Tell us too when the government can juggle the books to find money to buy votes for an election, why it can't juggle the books to find jobs for the people of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I am sure the member is aware of the fact that, come next Tuesday evening, there shall be a rather interesting document placed before this House. I trust at that time there will be answers to his questions.

Mr. Sargent: Supplementary: Can his ministry do anything about it?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Obviously the question the member raised is not one that's directed to the Ministry of Industry and Tourism but to the minister of finance or Treasurer.

DRG GLOBE ENVELOPES LIMITED

Mr. Grande: My question is to the Minister of Labour. Given the fact that the Minister of Health answered with some speed a question regarding senior citizens getting ripped off in nursing homes, will the Minister of Labour attempt to answer the question I put in this Legislature on December 6 last year concerning the appalling working conditions at DRG Globe Envelopes?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am sorry, it was my understanding that we had answered all questions which had been put to the Ministry of Labour in the last session. If we have not, I apologize. The answer will be forthcoming.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

Mr. Sweeney: A question to the Minister of Colleges and Universities: Given the fact that the Ontario Council of University Affairs is the chief advisory body to his ministry with respect to policy direction, spending and so on, what criteria does he use in selecting the members for that advisory body?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I would reply to the member this way, Mr. Speaker, that that's a

fairly extensive process. We attempt to consider a large number of factors. I think that if the hon. member would locate their home residences, for instance, on a map, he'd find that it does an excellent job of covering all this province.

We obviously therefore try to distribute the membership throughout the province. We try to distribute the membership through a large age grouping, as we would not want everyone from a senior citizen group of our society, nor would we want them as all young members of our society.

I am trying to convey to the member that in forming a board of that importance, we make a very conscientious effort to have as broad a representation of the community at large, all things being considered, as it is possible to do.

Mr. Sweeney: That being the case, would the minister not agree that if there is going to be a student representative on that advisory body, the various student associations through this province should at least be consulted as to whether or not they have recommendations to make?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: The member makes a very basic error in that we do not appoint a representative of any specific group in society. There are young people on that council, but they do not represent a specific group.

Mr. Conway: Not even the Tories.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: There is indeed an excellent member who happens to be very knowledgeable in labour negotiations, but he does not represent the union section of society. There are people involved in management. They are not there because they happen to represent management. It is a cross-section of the people of this province that we try to reflect in those appointments and not representatives of a specific group.

DROUGHT TASK FORCE

Mr. Foulds: A question of the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development: On March 24, in the Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal, there was an announcement of a task force comprised of ministry personnel to study the drought situation in northwestern Ontario. Could he indicate to the House the authority of that task force, what reports it has made to the ministry or the cabinet, and what concrete steps the five ministries involved are taking with regard to the prob-

lems, excluding the forest fire situation in northwestern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: I'd be pleased to get that information for the hon. member.

Mr. Speaker: The question period has expired.

Presenting reports.

REPORT

Mrs. Campbell from the standing procedural affairs committee presented the committee's report which was read as follows and adopted:

Your committee has carefully examined the following application for a private Act and finds the notices as published sufficient:

Village of Port McNicoll.

Your committee further recommends that, in accordance with the order of the House of March 31, paragraph 7, the latest annual reports of all agencies, boards, and commissions be referred to the committee.

Mr. Speaker: Introduction of bills.

AIRPORTS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved first reading of Bill 34, An Act to amend The Airports Act.

Motion agreed to.

PUBLIC VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved first reading of Bill 35, An Act to amend The Public Vehicles Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Snow: The amendment to The Public Vehicles Act which I've just introduced will clarify the situation regarding car pools and van pools as they relate to The Public Vehicles Act and will really exempt any requirement for car pools or van pools to be licensed under that Act.

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day—and I've waited until now because I didn't want to take any more time away from the question period than the division bells were already taking away—I would

like to raise a couple of matters of order, and perhaps you may want to rule on them later. They have to do with what happened this morning.

Mr. Conway: Here it comes.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I want to draw attention to standing order 31 which deals with motions to adjourn the House. I would like to suggest that the procedure followed this morning was very irregular and contrary to the rules.

Mr. Moffatt: The House leader should be here.

Hon. Mr. Welch: No, there is no rule about the attendance of the House leader as there is no rule about the attendance of the member for Durham East. However, standing order 31 is fairly clear. It says: "A motion to adjourn the House or the debate is in order any time after the orders of the day or notices of motion have been entered up, but may be made prior thereto only by leave of the House."

I suggest that the procedure followed this morning was contrary to the rule and I think that the record should be quite clear on that matter so that we can avoid—

An hon. member: There were no ministers in their chairs.

Mr. Lewis: You are right.

Hon. Mr. Welch:—what I would consider today to be an irresponsible activity on the part of the third party—

Mr. Sweeney: Irresponsible on your part.

Hon. Mr. Welch:—to frustrate the carrying out of the routine proceedings of this House which are quite clearly set out in the rules.

Mr. Conway: Did the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Johnston) second that motion?

Hon. Mr. Welch: With respect to routine proceedings, it's quite clear if one looks at standing order 23, which is very specific, that routine proceedings precede the orders of the day. I don't know whether I have to make any other point except to draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, to rule 31 of the House with respect to what happened today.

I'm also very anxious—and I've been anxious to do this for some time but I didn't want it to be interpreted as being overly sensitive personally—to clear up some misunderstanding, particularly by the leader of the third party, with respect to the role of the

House leader. In some exchange today with the Premier, he talked about nobody being here "to conduct the business of the House."

Mr. Speaker, I thought that's what you did. I thought that the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly was in fact in charge of the House and, secondly, that he, the Speaker, and all members of the House are governed by what the rules say are the routine proceedings and that we proceed with the routine proceedings.

Any discretion that is left with any minister designated as House leader takes effect only when we reach the orders of the day. I think that's quite clear with respect to the rules, that the discretion with respect to the calling of the business then comes into effect when the orders of the day are called. Prior to that time I assumed the Speaker and the House are governed by the rules which set out the order for routine proceedings. Although we're all entitled to have our fun, I would assume that in the interests of the orderly conduct of the work of this particular House we would do this.

Mr. Sweeney: We didn't consider it funny.

Mr. Sargent: There was no House leader there and no acting House leader.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The fact of there being no one here designated as the House leader at the moment was very relevant to the question put by the Leader of the Opposition, who had some difficulty at that time—which is another point—in placing a question to someone of a general nature because the specific minister wasn't here.

Mr. Conway: It was a difficulty shared by us all.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It was a reasonable question for the Leader of the Opposition to ask who was in fact designated at the moment, "so I can direct my question to that particular person." That was, as far as I'm concerned, a reasonable inquiry.

Mr. Kerrio: We are glad you are willing to listen to reason.

Hon. Mr. Welch: But the procedure that followed, that is, for the leader of the third party to stand up and move adjournment and then start talking about who's here conducting the business of the House, I assume—

Mr. Sargent: What are they going to talk about, the Blue Jays?

Hon. Mr. Welch:—we would chalk that up to lack of experience, which no doubt will not

be improved upon because he won't be here that long to have it improved upon anyway.

Mr. Sweeney: You are making a mockery of the Legislature.

[11:45]

Mr. Speaker: Order please. Does the hon. member for Kitchener wish to make a comment on this point of order?

Mr. Breithaupt: Yes, Mr. Speaker, only with respect to some of the perhaps more unfortunate remarks of the government House leader, which unfortunately became somewhat more personal than I would have hoped they might.

Mr. Sweeney: Church is Sunday.

Mr. Breithaupt: The difficulty that we faced this morning was with respect to the ability of opposition members to ask questions of the responsible ministers; and I am quite aware, of course, that Mr. Speaker has no control over the attendance of any members of the House. The points dealt with were dealt with specifically to draw attention to the fact that perhaps because of other duties in other places, there were only six ministers of the Crown present.

This is an unfortunate circumstance, but one which it was believed had to be brought clearly to the attention of the ministry, because the whole functioning of the question period, now that it has been extended to an hour, will obviously collapse if there is no one here of whom questions may be asked.

It is true, of course, that questions can be asked particularly, no doubt, of the ministers who were present, but in certain other issues of the day there was the requirement at least, and one expressed by the Leader of the Opposition, to place a certain question dealing with the recent resignation of Mr. Humphrey from a commission.

There was no one to whom that question could be put and, of course, Mr. Speaker, it is entirely out of your competence to suggest it be put to any particular other minister in the absence of having someone at least generally available to have that question put, even as notice. That has happened on occasion with the various secretaries for Resources or Social Development and questions have then been passed on to their appropriate ministers.

That opportunity wasn't available to us this morning, and as a result the procedure developed as it did. I would suggest that the problem can be avoided if there is some

attempt to at least encourage government ministers to be present, particularly on days such as a Friday when other trips or other plans might have them elsewhere.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, before you say something about this I want to add a comment. First of all, the fact that the ministers weren't present isn't surprising. This has been one of the problems of this House for some considerable period of time. In fact, for as long as I have been here, Friday mornings have been unproductive because of the inability of the government to get ministers into their seats. I don't think we should have been surprised by that, although this morning was particularly bad.

I do want to raise with you the matters of order, and to suggest to you that it is inappropriate for the Speaker to accept a motion from a member who has risen on a point of order. The leader of the third party rose supposedly on a point of order. Your only function in that, if I may say so, sir, to you, was to decide whether or not he had a point of order. You should not have accepted a motion to adjourn on that pretext.

Mr. Sargent: You voted for it.

Mr. Deans: I did not.

Mr. Sargent: Your party did.

Mr. Deans: I did not. I make the point with you, Mr. Speaker, that it would be very helpful if we were to have some clear definition of what is acceptable under a point of order. A point of privilege is a different matter altogether to be heard—

Mr. Sargent: What a bunch of nonsense. What nonsense is that?

Mr. Deans: —but even on a point of privilege, I put to you that you cannot move a motion. A motion can only be moved by a speaker who has been regularly recognized for the purpose of speaking.

Mr. Sargent: You are out of order yourself.

Mr. Deans: I am not out of order. In fact I am very much in order. It is probably the only point of order that has been valid all day.

Mr. Kerrio: Why didn't you think of that earlier?

Mr. Deans: That's the reason, incidentally, why we didn't support the motion.

Mr. Kerrio: That is not the reason.

Mr. Sargent: Oh come on.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Kerrio: I bet he bets the horses after the race is over.

Mr. Deans: I can well understand that the Speaker might not be totally familiar with all of the new rules, any more than any other member would be totally familiar with all of the new rules—I can even understand that the Speaker might not be completely familiar with all of the old rules—but I do think that there are certain rules that we have to all understand, and the one rule is this, that you cannot rise on one pretext in order to raise a matter completely unrelated.

Hon. Mr. Welch: With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleagues, the two House leaders, in speaking to this question with respect to the orderly running of the House. The attendance of my colleagues is one matter; and I want to say that I thought at the beginning of this morning's session I was, in part, addressing myself to that by announcing the private meeting, involving a number of my colleagues, that was going on in the building. I thought that particular message would be clear. In fact, I was prepared, if asked, to indicate the members of the executive council who were at that meeting, along with others who were there. I had the list right here.

I am not speaking to the question of attendance; the members opposite are quite entitled to make whatever comments they want with respect to that matter. And that really isn't the reason I rose today on this particular point. I felt I had to make the comment. Unfortunately, it has been interpreted as being overly personal, but I felt that some of the comments made by the leader of the third party with respect to the conduct of the business of the House had to be clarified—once again, in the spirit of the orderly running of the House. It is not unrelated to some other matters with respect to the committee structure, which is all in place now because of a great deal of co-operation. I would hope that would continue.

The important thing is that there are, perhaps, other ways to address this question of attendance, rather than trying to find some way to bend a rule or to follow the procedure that was done today. I simply repeat that I think it would be wise to clarify rule standing order 31, and to clarify the position of the person designated as House leader, being very clear, as far as I am concerned, what rule 24 confers on that particular

cabinet minister. Any discretion applies only after the routine proceedings have been dealt with in the House.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, if I could comment on this very briefly, I don't want to prolong this because it could get into a debate—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think we should get on—

Mr. Cunningham: On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Are you rising on a point of order now?

Mr. Cunningham: Yes, I am.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think we should just get on with the business of the House. And I think the points—

Mr. Cunningham: On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: This is the gist of the conversation. I'll hear the member briefly.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, the hon. House leader in his remarks implied—partially in error, I would think—our party was possibly raising this matter with fun in mind. I just wanted—for purpose of the record—to correct that, as sincerely as I can. I am correcting the record, if I might.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is the gist of many of the remarks. People rise on points of order and they really want to debate some matter; that is really not a point of order. I think the points that the member for Wentworth made were well made. The House leader's comment about the policing of the order: my preliminary examination of that order would tend to give credence to that interpretation of it; and, in my opinion, the motion should not have been accepted, at the present. I take responsibility for that. We will study all the comments that have been made and will undoubtedly have further comments to make at the first of the week.

Orders of the day.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Mancini: I am pleased to rise and resume the debate. But before I do, I surely must take the opportunity to comment on what happened this morning. And, surely, the issue in question is the fact that members of the opposition, who are in a majority in this House, did not have the opportunity to question the government ministers. If, on Friday mornings, the best turnout they are going to have is five or six cabinet ministers out of 26, I sincerely hope that they will talk among each other so that they will be able to give the opposition members a better opportunity to find out what is going on in this province. That way, we can report to our constituents, as is our job.

Mr. Conway: One of these days they'll learn something about the supremacy of Parliament.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, yesterday when I left off I was on the topic of farm gasoline. I was mentioning that it was very unfortunate that the farmers of Essex county and many farmers across the province of Ontario are paying more for gasoline while they're purchasing in bulk than when they buy at the retail level.

I also mentioned it was very unfortunate that every time we put a question to the Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) it seemed to me his only response is a direct attack on the federal Minister of Agriculture. Surely he can be like the present Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. F. S. Miller); I think maybe the Minister of Agriculture and Food should stop and listen to some of that minister's answers.

I would just like to say that the Minister of Natural Resources' answers are direct, straightforward and honest and really that's all the members on the opposite side of the House here are asking for. All we want is a direct, straight and honest answer. If the Minister of Agriculture and Food for Ontario can't do anything about the problem which I raised on April 6—if he can't do anything about the fact that farmers are paying more for bulk gasoline than they do at the retail level—then he should just stand up and say so and give the reasons why.

While I'm on the topic of agriculture I would just like to point out that in the riding of Essex South we have possibly 75 per cent of all the greenhouse operations in Canada. This is a multi-million dollar industry in my riding; it provides a tremendous amount of jobs. There's tremendous investment and it surely is the cornerstone of the farming in my particular riding. As you

know, Mr. Speaker, I've raised the question in the House that the greenhouse industry is under severe pressure due to increases in energy. I would just like to point this out here to the members of the assembly and especially to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Even though he's not here today, I'm sure that he'll take interest and read my remarks in Hansard.

I just want to point out that if something is not done soon, either by way of some kind of subsidy for their energy costs, or possibly by finding a new source of energy, such as solar heating, the greenhouse industry is not going to survive much longer. Last year they were under terrible pressure, not only from the high cost of energy but from the tremendous amount of cheap imports that were on the market that they had to compete with.

Here in Ontario the farmers must pay a higher minimum wage than they do in many parts of the world. That is coupled with the initial cost of construction for the greenhouses and further coupled with the tremendous cost of energy. I just don't know how the greenhouse industry is going to be able to take it much longer. I know that some of the people in that industry have branched out and have gone into flowers, such as roses and lilies and that type of thing, but the bulk of the people in the industry have stuck with their regular crops of tomatoes and cucumbers. I just want to really emphasize the point that the industry is in trouble and we'd better take a good look at it soon.

I would like to speak to the new reform on property taxation which has been kicked around a great deal by the Treasurer of our province. I would like to read from the background report that the Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs committee sends out. This one is dated April 1, 1977. One page nine, section 6, where the heading is "Property Tax Reform," it states: "The Treasurer said the report was well written"—and he is referring to the Blair commission report—"The Treasurer states that the report was well-written, with local recommendations, and he had hoped that the municipalities would read the full report and be willing to accept the challenge."

[12:00]

I think that very clearly states the intentions of the Treasurer of this province. I'm sorry to say that if the present government receives another majority, this programme will be implemented in the same fashion as regional government was implemented some

time ago, against local wishes and against much, much opposition.

I would just like to speak to some of the sections which cause me a great concern and which cause many of my constituents a great concern. Mr. Speaker, regarding proposal four dealing with farm land: presently the farmers receive 50 per cent of their property tax in a rebate form. They seem to be satisfied with this type of rebate and there appears to me to be no overwhelming cry from the farmers in my area that they need more as far as a property tax rebate.

However, the Treasurer feels that it's the responsibility of his government, as stated in budget paper E, that they should pay a full 100 per cent of the property tax. I believe that this is wrong. I believe that it will some day take the farms away from the farmers, and I also believe that the farmers want to feel as if they're paying their fair share in this great province.

It was quite interesting that the Blair commission found out that this is exactly how the farmers feel—that they do want to pay their taxes. Their recommendation was that the province pay 90 per cent in a tax rebate form and that the farmers pay the other 10 per cent. I personally—and I'm sure we all on this side of the House—find this a ridiculous answer to the problems that we are facing today.

I'd like to move on to proposal seven dealing with exempt property. Today, as we know, people like the Girl Guides and the Boy Scouts and the YMCA and other very good institutions such as that are now exempt from property tax—places like private schools. In my own riding we have a private school which is run by the Mennonite community. This school has been built from donations from this community and they pay the whole cost themselves. They've expanded their institution just recently. I believe it was last year that they opened up a \$500,000 gymnasium and auditorium and there wasn't one penny from outside their community—there wasn't one penny from the Ontario government. This is a group of industrious people who are trying to take care of themselves. And what does this government propose? It proposes to tax them.

Surely we cannot accept this. I sincerely hope that many of the people in my riding understand this issue and that many people across the province understand it. In the Blair commission report, they also acknowledge some of this. It was their recommendation to the Treasurer that local boards be set up to

hear these charitable institutions and private schools like the Mennonite schools which I've just mentioned in order that they may apply for an exemption in order to get a grant so that they can pay their taxes with this grant.

How much bureaucracy do we need? First, we have a system which is going to be set up to tax charitable institutions and private schools and take their money away. Then we're going to set up another level of bureaucracy which is going to meet with his people to see if they're going to have their money back, and they may get it back and they may not. That's truly a bureaucrat's dream and a people's nightmare.

I would now like to comment on proposal, 5 which is of real concern to me and which is of real concern to the small business community of Essex South. As you know, Mr. Speaker, presently there are different rates under the business assessment. I would just like to mention that car parks pay 25 per cent; retail stores pay 30 per cent; industry pays 60 per cent; financial institutions such as banks pay 75 per cent, and distilleries pay 140 per cent. Under this proposal, the business assessment would be changed so that everyone would pay 50 per cent.

Imagine, today, under all the pressure that small business feels, the government is going to raise the business assessment tax and the institutions which are making the most money, and the institutions which can afford to pay, such as banks—and I would just like to mention that I'm very happy to see that in some parts of Canada we're going to have unions in banks so that the workers there can, once and for all, get a fair wage—these institutions, industries, banks and distilleries, their business assessment taxes are going to go down. Surely we're going to have to realize that someone else is going to pay that, and I really abhor the thought that this extra payment is going to come from a segment of society which is already under severe pressure, a segment of society which is a dying species. If we want to see a prosperous Ontario in the future, we must preserve our small business, and this new business assessment tax is certainly not a measure which is going in that direction.

I would just like to leave the reform on property taxation now and I would like to say a couple of things about the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, especially Wintario. I personally feel that with the \$60 million per year we're collecting now, not all of that money should go toward the projects that it has been going out to. Not all of that money should go to send hockey teams across the country. Not all of that should be directed

in the culture and recreation area. Some of that money should be directed into other areas.

I would just like to mention that many of the older people in our society today want to stay in their homes and do not want to go into institutions. I personally would like to see some of this money possibly go to fund nursing for these older people who want to stay in their homes but can't quite take care of themselves the way they used to. Surely our old people are as important as many of our Wintario projects?

I would like to say that I've seen just about every Wintario application, or I've known just about every Wintario application that has come from my riding. I know that just about every single one is worthy of some financial help. Also, I feel there are many other sectors of our society that are also worthy of our help, so maybe we can take \$10 million or \$15 million a year, or possibly even a little more, out of the \$60 million or so that we are collecting and put it in other areas which may be of assistance to older people.

I would like to mention, concerning industry and tourism, that Essex county is very unique. We are right across the river from the sixth largest metropolitan area in the United States. We are right across the river from Detroit, Michigan, and all of its suburbs, and I believe that we have one of the greatest opportunities to draw from that area in terms of tourism, and I personally believe that this government here in Ontario has not done enough as far as advertising the county of Essex.

As I mentioned earlier, we have a lot for the people to see. We have historical museums, historical parks. We have Boblo Island. We have Heinz in Leamington. We have many things that the people on the other side of the border would wish to see. I only wish that the Minister of Industry and Tourism would face up to this and would allow us more money to advertise our county and in that way generate much much more money in tourist dollar expenditures from people who I am sure are very willing to come and visit the county of Essex if only they knew what we had to offer.

I would just like to mention, while I am on this subject, that in the township of Sandwich West, in the riding of my good friend from Essex North (Mr. Ruston), there is a new business opening up. It is in its second year of operation and it is called The Farm. I have been there to visit it and I personally so has the member and so has the Minister of Industry and Tourism. This

enterprise is being undertaken by two industrious Canadians whom I believe deserve and need some help from the Ministry of Industry and Tourism.

Already these men have thousands and thousands of people booked, especially schools which come over in busloads to visit this farm, and one really has to see this place to appreciate it. They have all kinds of mechanical devices which are covered with real calfskin or calf fur and other things like that, which open up and show what the inside of a calf is like so the students can better appreciate where milk really comes from.

They have applied, I am sure, to the Ministry of Industry and Tourism for a grant so they could help promote agriculture, so that they could help promote Essex county. The minister was there to see this operation, and I am sure that he was very impressed, but still we get no help. It seems that Minaki Lodge got all the assistance that they needed, but two industrious Canadians trying to advertise Essex county, trying to create a viable small business, cannot get assistance.

I really think that the minister should go over the regulations for assistance and for loans to small business—because I find them almost incomprehensible and so do many of my constituents who are trying to apply—and he should come out with a very specific programme as to who will receive help and who will not and why. Also, his programme should be open to change, so that people like those I just mentioned in Sandwich West who start operations such as The Farm, may also have the opportunity and chance since it is such a unique operation, and if they don't fit into the criteria the criteria should always be open to change.

I would now like to mention that we suffered probably one of the worst winters in the history of Ontario, and I would like to say that Essex county was hard hit by the snow. Most municipalities had exhausted their budgets well before the end of winter and I was very pleased to be one of the first members to call for snow removal assistance from the ministry. I would just like to take the opportunity to congratulate the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the cabinet for their statement on February 1, 1977, that they had made a decision to make extra funds available to these municipalities whose funds had been depleted. All the municipalities in my riding were very grateful for the cabinet action, and we certainly would like to thank them for that.

[12:15]

Earlier, Mr. Speaker, I mentioned senior citizens and how many of them would like to stay in their own homes. As we know, today approximately one out of every 12 people is over 65. In the year 2001 one out of every five people will be over 65. Personally, I find the institutionalizing of old people to run against the way I feel people should be cared for.

As you know, in Toronto the Italian community undertook a vigorous programme and built the Villa Columbo. I really wasn't sure whether it was going to work or not because I know how most Europeans feel about the institutionalizing of their parents. I don't find it at all surprising that the Villa Colombo is only half full—I find that a matter of course. I really think that steps must be taken now so that a system can be set up so that the old people can be cared for in their homes. They want to remain independent, and they want to live in the environment that they have for so long and that they find so comfortable. I think we would all be remiss here in the Legislature if we don't take steps to ensure that these old people have the opportunity to stay in their homes if they wish.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak on the problem of vandalism that seems to be on the increase in my riding, and I'm sure that my riding is no different in this regard from any other riding in the province. Almost on a regular basis we read where vandals tear off mail boxes and are breaking store windows and are breaking expensive signs, stealing bicycles and so on.

If we don't put a stop to this, if the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and the judges of this province are not going to take strong measures to prevent this from continuing to grow, we are all in for a very great shock in the future. Our young people must be taught to respect goods which are owned by someone else. They should know the value of property, they should be aware that when they cause damage they are hurting someone personally.

I would just like to mention that the Ministry of Correctional Services has a programme in which, when a young person under the legal age is caught causing damage to someone else, such as breaking glass and stealing bicycles and so on, when they are apprehended they are taken to the person whom they have harmed so that they can see first-hand the real damage that they have done to this person.

I sincerely hope that this programme will be expanded. I hope it's working. I know in

one particular situation in my riding where I was not pleased at the way in which it was carried out. But, generally, I hope that the programme is working and I hope it is expanded because our young people, if they are not taught from a young age to respect the goods of other people, I just would once again say that we are sincerely in for a great shock in the future.

Also, I cannot rise in the Legislature without mentioning the Workmen's Compensation Board. Over the last 18 months a great deal of my time has been taken up helping my constituents with the Workmen's Compensation Board—I hesitate to say against the Workmen's Compensation Board, because I really want to believe that the board wants to help people. However, in its process of wanting to help people, I think it has erred in many, many areas.

I sincerely urge the board to change the way in which the appeal system operates. The workers do not understand it. I know that we have only two workmen's advisers. That's not enough. We should at least have 30, or 40, or 50 workmen's advisers.

Every time one of my constituents who is an injured worker goes before the appeals board, I always make certain that he has a workmen's adviser with him. I know that if he does not, no matter if he has a lawyer or any of these other people, he stands very little chance of winning his case. I know of just about every one of my constituents who has gone before the board with a workmen's adviser, I would say 90 per cent have won their cases. I do not think that would be true if he did not have the workmen's adviser with him. I think it is a very good system to provide the injured worker with an adviser who will go and defend him, a person who is independent from the board. I think that we have to expand that greatly.

While I'm on the subject of the board, I have to say my experience through my constituents has been that the board moves too slowly. On many occasions I have had constituents wait literally months for the board just to gather information. I have had to help these people get on general welfare assistance. I think that's wrong. If the board realizes at the time that the case is complicated and that it is going to take months, it should have someone go into the area and collect all the facts in two or three days. In that way the injured worker knows where he stands.

I had a particular case where an injured worker's case was caught up in all this bureaucracy. It took literally four and a half months before the board received all the

information to enable it to make a decision. In the meantime, I helped this man get on general welfare assistance. After four and a half months, his claim was denied by the board. I'm not saying that the board was wrong in denying the man his claim but surely it was wrong in having this man wait four and a half months. I don't believe for one minute that it takes four and a half months to accumulate all the information concerning an injury.

Recently we have had a very interesting affair concerning the Ontario Federation of Labour. This is an institution I have a great deal of respect for. I know it does a lot of good for the workers of Ontario. But when I read that the president of the OFL takes a trip to Florida while his staff members are on strike and the whole institution is paralysed and no longer during the duration of this strike is able to help the workers of this province who are members of the OFL, I really have to find that disappointing.

I am sure if any executive-type person from any company had done that he would have been labelled a person who does not care for the interests of the working people. I am not saying that the president of the OFL does not deserve a vacation; I am sure he deserves one. I am sure he deserves more time off than he presently gets. But this particular point in time—when his staff members are on strike and his institution is paralysed and therefore not doing any good for the union members of this province—is no time to take a vacation. He should be home straightening out the problem so that people like my father, who's a union member, can get all of their union dues handled in a proper fashion and can get all of the benefits that they deserve from this organization.

I was really sorry to see this, and I would sincerely hope that it doesn't happen again. I know a couple of the members who work on the staff and I'm not so sure that they're on strike without any good reason. I'm sure they're out on strike for a good reason. I think the president should be there to try and straighten out the problems that he's facing right now.

Basically that concludes what I have to say. I would just like to mention to the members that every year we have the famous Pelee Island pheasant hunt, and I took the liberty of inviting all the members over to this wonderful place during the hunt, where pheasants abound by the thousands, and where the good people of Pelee Island would surely be glad to see some of the members of the assembly other than myself. So if the

members do have time this fall, you're all invited.

Mr. McCague: Earlier in this debate the leader of the third party had some comments to make on the application of the city of Barrie to annex certain parts of surrounding townships. I want to review the events which preceded this application being made and to reiterate the government's position in this matter.

In the original TCR concept it was envisaged that the major growth in the Simcoe-Georgian area would take place in and around Barrie. At that time no studies had been made of the whole area of Simcoe county.

Mr. Conway: Reading speeches is quite improper.

Mr. McCague: It is quite proper for me, thank you. I didn't criticize you when you were making yours.

Mr. Conway: Standing order.

Mr. McCague: In the original — sorry, you've gotten me all disturbed now.

Mr. Conway: You're not going to get the same treatment.

Mr. McCague: In order to do this and to develop a strategy for the development of the area, the government set up a provincial-municipal task force charged with the responsibility of recommending a development strategy to the government. This task force was set up in 1972 and consisted of four elected representatives from the urban communities of Barrie, Orillia, Collingwood, and Midland, and four members representing Simcoe county council and the rural townships.

It was chaired by the then Minister without Portfolio, the member for Grenville-Dundas (Mr. Irvine) and later the member for Brantford.

Mr. Conway: What happened to the member for Brantford?

Mr. McCague: The task force was in existence for over three years and submitted its recommendations to the government in the fall of 1975. These recommendations were based on studies carried out by a team of consultants under the direction of the task force.

Let me be explicit about this—the local representatives of the people of Simcoe county chose the team of consultants, set out their terms of reference, directed their work

and received their report and recommendations. These recommendations were considered by the task force, which recommended to the government a development strategy. This was the document which the government announced it accepted in principle in April of 1976.

During the study period every effort was made to involve each municipality and to ensure that special interest groups and the public were kept informed and had an opportunity to provide input. Some 140 meetings were held, about half with the municipalities. The remaining 70 were either public meetings or meetings with the specific groups.

In addition, the proposed strategy was the subject of two conferences. The result was a strategy that has met with general acceptance throughout the county. Indeed, the county council is on record as supporting the four growth centres strategy. However, no one has ever claimed that everyone in the area agreed with every recommendation. The major dispute was the conflict between the city of Barrie and the township of Innisfil. No resolution of this problem has been achieved. All parties agreed, however, the city ought to be allowed to expand. What was in dispute, and still is, was the acreage.

In this connection the leader of the third party made reference to a letter to the Treasurer from the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman). I am very pleased, Mr. Speaker, to read this letter into the record. It demonstrates that the strategy of the task force is compatible with farm land preservation policies of the Minister of Agriculture and Food, although understandably he would have gone further. It should be noted that the letter does not relate specifically to the Barrie annexation. It recognizes that some land will be converted to urban use and expresses concern about the method of retaining this land in production as long as possible. The text of the letter is as follows:

"Further to your request my staff and I reviewed the above noted report. I would offer the following comments for your consideration. In general the report is to be commended for the attention paid to the concerns of agriculture, particularly the concepts of preserving prime agricultural land for continued agriculture production and separating potentially conflicting urban and rural land uses. Although we have no objections to the overall development concepts chosen by the task force we would like to express the following.

"As part of the implementation programme the task force recommends the reservation for

food production of all existing and potential class 1 and 2 agricultural land as well as class 3 lands currently in production, as classified by the Canada land inventory. In addition the report calls for the reservation of all specialized land suitable for fruit, vegetables and tobacco. Although such retention policies are praiseworthy, I have noted that they fall slightly short of the objectives utilized by my staff in the review of the planning document. These objectives specify that class 1, 2, 3, and 4 agricultural land, as well as areas of special and unique crops or soil, should be retained for food production.

"Although I recognize that it is the final responsibility of the task force to delineate those lands to be reserved for agricultural use I am unable to find any underlying rationale within the report for not reserving more arable lands than presently suggested. For example, the report indicates that class 1 and 2 agricultural land comprise one-third of the Simcoe-Georgian area. If all existing potential class 3 lands were included for preservation the total reserve land area still contains only 53 per cent of the study area. This would seem to leave ample areas in which other growth could occur.

"I have noted that the report designates generous urban land areas to meet the future needs of the projected populations embodied in the development concept. Yet, because of the long time-frame involved in the strategy, many of these designated urban lands will not be required for 25 or 30 years. In the interim, it is desirable that these areas remain in agricultural use and further that detailed staging for the development of these areas be required to enable farmers to make a logical and orderly retreat. In this regard five years advance notice might be appropriate as a minimum. I trust that this important concern will be adequately provided for when the time comes for implementing the development strategy at the local level.

"The report also makes reference to the use of land banking policies modelled after the Saskatchewan and British Columbia schemes as possible implementation measures. Although not without merit, as you are no doubt aware land banking presently does not constitute part of the government strategy for Ontario farmland as outlined in the recent statement entitled *A Strategy for Ontario Farmland*.

"An important goal of the report suggests the removal of pressure from agricultural and rural areas by providing adequate lands

for urban development around existing centres. Although it is implicit in the report it is my concern that before such lands, which may include valuable farmland, are needed for urban expansion, ideally all land within existing urban boundaries will have been efficiently used through infilling and other similar local planning policies.

"Finally I commend the task force for its recommendation that bona fide farmers be permitted to build additional residences on their land to accommodate farm labour without the need of a land severance. This completes our comments in this regard to the report.

"[Signed] William G. Newman,

"May 11, 1976."

At a series of meetings with the representatives of the municipalities involved, the Treasurer encouraged them to seek agreement in order that they might avoid divisive and expensive hearings before the Ontario Municipal Board. Unfortunately, this was not possible and the city of Barrie proceeded with its application for annexation.

I think hon. members are aware of the subsequent events. However, since there appears to be a certain lack of clarity in some quarters about the government's position, let me read into the record a letter which the Treasurer addressed to the chairman of the OMB approximately one month before the hearings began:

"I am given to understand that there is still some confusion about the government's position in relation to the application of the city of Barrie to annex parts of the adjacent municipalities. In the interest of clarification, I thought I should expand on my comments in my previous letter.

"The report of the Simcoe-Georgian task force, which recommended that the population of Barrie should grow to 125,000, was accepted by the government on April 8, 1976. It is desirable that future urban development in the province be concentrated in urban areas in order to preserve as much valuable agricultural land and in order to secure the most efficient and economical delivery system as possible for municipal services.

"I confirm my previous statement that it is necessary for Barrie to expand its boundaries in order to accommodate the population envisaged. I have also stated and reaffirm that the amount of land to be annexed is a matter for the board to determine.

"To ensure that adequate facilities will be available to service the expected influx of population, the government will make funds

available over and above normal levels from its regional priority budget as and when necessary. This will require in the future a series of agreements with local government.

"It would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to negotiate such agreements with at least five different jurisdictions, the city, the county and three townships. If the board determines that compensation ought to be paid in accordance with section 14 of The Municipal Act, the government is prepared to look favourably on the provision of a portion of the funds for this purpose.

"I hope that this letter will serve to clarify some of the concerns that appear to have arisen and be of some assistance to you in your deliberations.

"[Signed] W. Darcy McKeough,

"September 30, 1976."

This remains the position of the government. It was with some regret that, despite having sent copies of the first letter to the municipalities concerned and the wide publicity the letter received, the Treasurer found it necessary to send a second letter in similar terms six weeks later. The second letter was in the following terms:

"Dear Mr. Chairman:

"I refer to my previous letter regarding the matter of the city of Barrie application to annex part of the neighbouring townships. At that time I indicated that the report of the Simcoe-Georgian task force had been accepted in principle by the government.

"I understand from my staff who are attending the hearing that the board is uncertain about the degree to which the government has accepted the report as government policy in view of the statement that it has been accepted in principle.

"I confirm that in particular the population allocations contained in the report have been approved by the government. In the case of the Barrie urban area, this is 125,000. The government noted the recommendation that a joint planning group should be set up to study the Barrie urban area. Inevitably, some years would lapse before such a group could be in a position to make recommendations. These would then require agreement and approval before further action could be taken.

"In the meantime, a number of decisions relating to the servicing of the area must be taken. These may be related to municipal services such as water and sewers, or provincial functions such as highways. These cannot, nor should they, wait until a detailed land-use plan has been developed.

"If the objectives of the government are to be achieved it is essential that the province can deal with the jurisdiction that will ultimately be responsible for housing those 125,000 people.

"Where expenditures are incurred by a municipality in support of developmental objectives of the government, it is the practice of the government to make financial assistance available in order that no undue burden falls on existing residents.

"Funds for these purposes are made available through the regional priority budget and are over and above all existing grant programmes. Examples of projects which have received provincial funds are: Pollution abatement projects in Thunder Bay and Ignace, and the development of an industrial park in the Parry Sound area. The regional priority budget is also used to fund provincial programmes such as the upgrading of Highway 599 from Savant Lake to Pickle Lake in advance of normal requirements.

"The government is prepared to make funds available for similar projects in the Barrie area, but I am unable at this time to indicate the magnitude of this support for projects in the Barrie area. This would have to be determined on receipt of specific proposals, but it is essential that the maximum benefit be obtained from the expenditures of public funds. Any project to be considered for assistance would be required to satisfy the requirements of the projected population.

"It is, therefore, essential that the government be able to deal with the jurisdiction that will be responsible for making decisions relating to capital expenditures on infra-structure to cater to 125,000 people.

"This jurisdiction must also have the responsibility of proposing taxes to meet the local share of costs. I understand that my previous letters have not been placed on the records and that the board would prefer that a witness be available to present such letters and to testify. In this regard I have instructed Mr. Eric Flemming to deliver this letter.

"[Signed] W. Darcy McKeough,

"December 15, 1976."

At no time has the government indicated how much land Barrie should have. Certainly, it should be sufficient to accommodate a population of 125,000. Ideally, the local people should sort it out themselves. Should they be able to do so, the Treasurer would be pleased to do anything possible to avoid further expense to these municipalities. If this cannot be done, the OMB can take into account all the relevant considerations, in-

cluding those relating to agricultural land. It is unfortunate that the annexation issue has overshadowed the recommendations in the report of the Simcoe-Georgian task force. The government is anxious to get on with the implementation of the other parts of the report, particularly those relating to growth in the four urban centres of Barrie, Orillia, Midland and Collingwood—so are the municipalities. Indeed the Treasury has received specific requests for assistance in the provision of infra-structure from the cities of Barrie and Orillia and the town of Midland.

The city of Barrie proposal is most advanced. At this time, the city is ready to spend approximately \$250,000 to serve an industrial park of 65 acres. We expect, shortly, to be in a position to announce government assistance to this project. In this way, the government and the municipalities are moving very positively to support the work that was done by the task force, and to implement their recommendations.

It gives me pleasure to clarify this position on behalf of the government.

Mr. Ferrier: Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to have this opportunity of joining in this Throne Speech debate. To begin with I'd like to commend you for your very important work as Speaker of this House, and on the way that you conduct the business here. Sometimes it's rather difficult to keep everyone in order and sometimes the business is rather controversial, but I'd like to commend you for the way you've conducted the affairs of this House.

The major concern of most people today is the whole question of unemployment. People in my area are certainly being hit as hard as in many other areas of the province and the country. In mid-March there were almost 5,000 people—as my leader pointed out when he gave his speech—registered as unemployed at Canada Manpower in the northeast office out of the Timmins area. It has been a particular concern of mine and of the people in the area. So many people who want to work do not have jobs available. There have been a number of things over the years that have exacerbated this particular situation and made it very difficult in our area. A number of jobs were lost when the federal government closed the radar base at Ramore and put the communities of Holtyre, Ramore and Matheson in some jeopardy when a number of air force personnel moved out.

[12:45]

Then we were hit, I suppose, by the slump in the lumber industry, and pulp and paper setbacks didn't help too much. Jobs were lost there. Then a year ago last December the government, in a very infamous act as far as I'm concerned, decided to close down the northeastern regional mental health centre. We have lost over 100 jobs in that facility. Even though it is being partially used as the resource centre for the mentally retarded, there have still been over 100 jobs lost there. It seems to me that maybe one of the things the government should be considering when they're setting up their regional offices for this Northern Affairs department, since they did exacerbate the situation very much in regard to employment when they closed down northeastern, is that the Northern Affairs office should be in Timmins.

Another thing that really has hurt us was the sagging price in gold. We lost about 735 jobs there. Granted that the price has come up to the range of \$150 and a little per ounce of gold and that stabilizing the price means the mines are able to operate at a slight profit and perhaps might be engaging in some more development of their operations. Nonetheless it's a time of uncertainty. The gold mines had tried to get the federal and provincial governments to come up with a policy as far as gold mining is concerned so that they might be able to plan ahead with some certainty that the governments wanted that industry to carry on.

As I pointed out in my budget speech last December, there is quite an opportunity for expansion of this industry if it can be sustained over the valleys in the economic curve. As yet to my knowledge, neither the federal nor the provincial governments have come up with a policy that would make sure these mines continue in operation and provide employment and economic stability to the gold mining communities that exist in this province.

I think it would be most valuable and essential for the government to make a commitment that we really do want those gold mines to continue. I know the Minister of Natural Resources at the time made a very favourable speech to the mine ministers' conference down in Newfoundland, and we thought he was really pushing it. But when he was pressed in this House, he kind of hedged and the Treasurer did as well. They just wouldn't make that kind of a commitment.

As I say, if the north is going to develop and continue to grow with the resources we have there in gold in the Timmins area,

Kirkland Lake area and Red Lake area, we should make sure to let them know we want the industry there, we want them to expand and we will support them.

Another thing that caused unemployment is the shutdown of Timmins Auto Springs Limited putting between 100 and 125 people out of work. It was a manufacturer of trailers for transporting lumber, pulp and forest products. It had expanded quite rapidly and was most important to the economy of the area. I think the pulp and paper strike and the slack in the lumber industry had afflicted them in such a way that they were not able to keep going. I hope the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, along with others, will get involved. While that same industry may not be able to revive, some others might be encouraged to use the facilities and we will have that secondary industry in our area. It was the only major secondary industry that we did have, and we were most concerned that it continue.

The whole leaving of the development of the north to the private sector and to free enterprise has not brought prosperity to many of the communities in my riding, nor to the north as a whole. I think that we have to have more government planning and involvement in our economy. After all, if we're prepared to spend \$100 million to develop Syncrude in Alberta then we should be prepared to put some significant capital into the development of northern Ontario.

My leader has stated that one-half of the mines profit tax should be earmarked specifically for northern development and this money could be used by local bodies to provide secondary industry throughout the north and, over a significant time, public and private involvement in such a way where there was equity taken by the province in areas where there was some jeopardy in business and public capital could help stabilize it, or keep an operation going, that this money could be used for that. That's something that could be done in the Matachewan area right now, and regarding the Minister of Northern Affairs and his speech last night as to what he was going to do for the north, there's an area right now where he could do something.

Mr. Martel: Do you know where the offices are going?

Mr. Ferrier: No.

Mr. Martel: Kenora and Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Ferrier: Kenora and Sault Ste Marie?

Mr. Martel: I didn't realize Rhodes and Bernier were in such troubles.

Mr. Ferrier: That's crass political manoeuvring and I'm afraid that's what the ministry is, but we'll have to deal with that one when the bill comes in.

With the unemployment in the north and the difficulties that are there, one would hope this kind of economic planning and economic commitment would at least provide development and stability to the industry that we have. We're not seeing it under Conservative government. We don't hear them singing in the north now "Keep on going the way you've been going" as they did in 1971, because we've had 34 years of Conservative government to do the kind of things that should have been done, and the reason we have a crisis is that political philosophy and economic philosophy that we have had.

I suggest we need to have a provincial agency such as SOQUEM in Quebec, where there is public involvement in the exploration and development of the mining sector. I notice Levesque has designated certain areas of Quebec as areas where SOQUEM alone has the right to do the exploration and development and the mining companies are squealing. It's nice to hear them squeal. They don't get their own way in every province. Sometimes the public interest is taken into account and protected by a government, rather than a complete sellout to the private sector. We think that if we had this kind of operation in Ontario we could have the extra work being done. If the private sector is pulling up and trying its blackmailing tactics we could provide the extra exploration and we would have the ore bodies located and the economic benefits coming to the people.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Don't bite the hand, Bill.

Mr. Ferrier: By the way, since the minister interjects, we hope that in areas like mine, where there has been mercury found in a number of the fish in the lakes, he is going to see that the fish are caught this summer and the tests are carried out this summer and not left, and that if there are ways of coping with that situation he is going to do it, because there is a lot of concern in my area about that. It was pretty shocking when we found there was in fact mercury in the fish in that area where there were no industries for miles around. So I hope the rather ambiguous statement that was made that maybe it wouldn't be done this year—well

I hope it will be done this year. It is a must as far as I am concerned.

There are two or three other things I want to deal with in the time remaining. I want to say that I thoroughly support the efforts of my party, of most members, to get that Workmen's Compensation Board revised and working properly. The delays in the adjudicating of claims, the dissatisfactions that are felt by workers, particularly as far as chest conditions are concerned; they wait six months before the decision is reached and unless you have a clearcut case of silicosis—there is bronchitis and emphysema but not clearly a lot of silicosis—they are turned down.

That board needs a complete revamping. Members have hammered at that board in the nine and a half years that I have been in this House. It's a complete political embarrassment for the government and it loses one a lot of support year after year. People will not trust anything the board does, it seems. I think it's incumbent on the government to clean that thing up and to make it work properly. I think the plan outlined by my party, that it be a comprehensive insurance scheme whether you are injured on the job or off, would over the years do a lot more justice to people in this province and meet their needs and do away with a lot of anguish and mental suffering that results from things now.

The Timmins board of education has authority from the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) to proceed to build a new secondary school. In conjunction with this, they wish to build an auditorium in this school for their own use and also for community use. The Ministry of Education will not provide capital funds for auditoriums in high schools, I am told, so what the board of education has done is make application to Wintario for a grant. It has received approval for a grant but it has to raise about \$200,000 itself. They have requested that the minister waive the usual provision of having to raise it locally so that they could put it on the tax base.

The minister hasn't made a decision yet but it seems to me it is quite a thing for school boards to be running around selling tickets on cars and conducting lotteries and having bazaars and all this kind of thing when there is more important work that they should be doing. When it's a major project and when it's an essential thing that will help the school and help the community, I think it's more than just that it should be on the tax base. While we met with the deputy minister and put the case to him, he was kind of noncommittal. I would like to hope the

minister himself would give consideration to the Timmins board of education's request.

We still are worried about chronic care and that the home for the aged be able to expand and change itself drastically. We met with the ministers and hope for some response there.

There is one problem I will mention and then conclude my remarks. Highway 144 is still too narrow. There are a lot of accidents there. It's a treacherous road to drive. It's a secondary road, by government thinking, linking two major communities—Timmins and Sudbury. Only a community in the north would get that kind of treatment when a road was built. My friend from Sudbury East hammered away at it when it was first being constructed, called it the "Santa Fe Trail" and wanted it built up to standard. That road has got to be built to a first-class road and it has got to be widened to the standard 24

feet. The government hedged on that and wouldn't make that commitment. I say that's a must. The people insist on it and the government has got to start that kind of reconstruction programme.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your indulgence and I would conclude my remarks.

On motion by Mr. B. Newman, the debate was adjourned.

ANSWER TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, before moving adjournment I would ask consent of the House to table the answer to question 21 standing on the notice paper. (See appendix, page 520.)

On motion by Hon. Mr. MacBeth, the House adjourned at 1 p.m.

APPENDIX

(See page 519.)

Answers to questions were tabled as follows:

21. Mr. Gaunt—Inquiry of the ministry: How much does it cost to produce heavy water? How much does Ontario Hydro pay for heavy water? Is its production being subsidized by the federal government; and if so by what extent? Is its production being subsidized by the provincial government; and if so by what extent? What are the province's plans for the decommissioning of provincial nuclear reactors?

Answer by the Minister of Energy (Mr. Taylor):

A. The cost of producing heavy water is measured in units of dollars per kilogram (\$/kg). The cost has three major components: (i) The cost of interest and depreciation on capital invested in the plant; (ii) Operations and maintenance costs for people and materials to operate the plant; (iii) The costs of electrical and steam energy.

The cost of heavy water is extremely sensitive to the quantity of heavy water the plant actually produces.

The capital cost of the heavy water plant, the operations and maintenance costs and the energy costs are all subject to escalation. Therefore, the cost of heavy water depends on plant performance, when the plant was built and what year the heavy water was produced.

The current USA published selling price of 226 \$/kg in Canadian funds is a typical cost for 1977.

B. Ontario Hydro has been acquiring heavy water for the Pickering and Bruce generating stations during the past 10 years with a typical cost of 100 \$/kg—typical current costs are 200 \$/kg.

C. No, the federal government does not subsidize its production.

D. No, the provincial government does not subsidize its production.

E. There are no detailed plans at present in Ontario Hydro to decommission any of Ontario Hydro reactors that are operating, under construction, or planned. However, general studies prepared by the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited have been made to establish the feasibility of decommissioning Candu reactors. Detailed procedures will probably not be required for Ontario reactors until after the year 2000.

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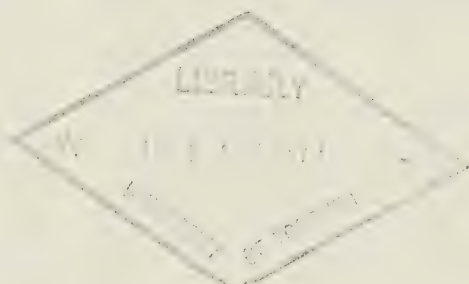


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Fourth Session, 30th Parliament

Monday, April 18, 1977

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1977

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

RENTAL HOUSING

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: As mentioned in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, my ministry is initiating a programme to stimulate the construction of rental units, and I would like now to outline the programme to the hon. members.

We propose linking the programme to the very successful assisted rental programme of the federal government, and it is designed to further stimulate the production of moderately priced rental housing across Ontario.

In the years prior to the introduction of the federal programme in 1975, the construction of rental housing had dropped significantly. A combination of land and construction costs, high mortgage rates and, later, the introduction of rent review, affected rental starts. Builders were reluctant to build units at costs that would force rents above the current market. The federally assisted rental programme, commonly called ARP, was designed to provide builders with the financial help required to cover the difference between the rents they would have to charge to cover costs and the rental income they could expect to receive in the market.

The federal programme utilizes funds from private lending institutions, which provide the first-mortgage loans. The federal assistance to builders consists of additional loans of up to \$1,200 per unit annually and are interest-free for at least 10 years.

As I mentioned, this has been successful in most areas of Ontario, and the federal government expects to commit more than 5,000 units in 1977. However, this federal funding has not proved to be adequate in some areas, such as Toronto. To make the ARP programme more effective, my ministry will provide an Ontario rental construction grant of up to \$600 per unit per year in those areas where the federal programme requires such additional support in order to be operational.

We see this providing starts for more than 3,000 additional units this year in areas where they are most needed. The combined federal and provincial programme is expected to provide the stimulus required for both badly needed rental units and new employment opportunities. Construction workers in Metropolitan Toronto, for example, have been hard hit by construction cutbacks. Thirty-six per cent are out of work, and I am sure they will welcome this initiative.

We intend, in co-operation with the federal government, to meet with private lenders and builders to explain this programme and to get commitments from them on housing starts this year. As well, we will be explaining the programme to municipal councils and seeking their commitment to facilitate local approvals so that construction can be initiated in the current building season.

Here's how the programme will work. The federal assistance is available to builders as interest-free loans of up to \$1,200 per unit annually. The total amount of assistance loan is determined by the number of units in the project, the cost of construction, the mortgage interest rate, operating costs and the average rent for similar accommodation in the area where the builder proposes to construct the new units.

The \$1,200 loan in year one decreases as market rents increase with the intent that the assistance will enable the owner to offer the units at market rents. The series of interest-free loans which are used to close the gap between prevailing rental rates and what the builder would otherwise have to charge are repayable. As I mentioned, the gap has been too large in some communities. Therefore, my ministry will provide a series of grants of up to \$600 per unit in the first year, and reducing in a manner similar to the federal formula.

Under the 10-year disbursement period the federal loan is interest-free. At the end of this period it is repayable at the prevailing NHA interest rate. Our grant, being a grant, is not repayable. We are negotiating with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to have the programme administered by them so as to avoid the need for additional

provincial staff and thereby eliminating the duplication of effort.

Mr. Lewis: That is a cop-out. That is a ridiculous statement.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTING SERVICES DIVISION

Hon. Mr. Auld: As the hon. members are undoubtedly aware, the Ministry of Government Services has discontinued and is in the process of disbanding its management consulting services division. This action, taken as a result of the government's intent to eliminate government operations where they can be equally well provided by the private sector, has resulted in 19 employees being declared surplus to the government's human resources requirement in this area. As the minister responsible for the Civil Service Commission, I would like to advise the House on how we are working to reassign the employees so affected.

As a first step, we restricted all staffing into positions in the same and related classifications as the individuals affected. This was done on March 21, and was done after an analysis of the skills and experience of the 19 employees. The surplus employees were contacted to determine whether or not they were interested in any position prior to any internal advertising of a vacancy. If they demonstrate an interest, they are given the benefit of prior consideration and interviewed and, if acceptable, are placed in the position. Thus far, this procedure has enabled the reassignment of six people.

For the members' information, this process is applied on a service-wide basis, and all staffing into positions which might prove suitable has been restricted for all ministries. The Ministry of Government Services personnel branch, and the staffing control branch of the Civil Service Commission are maintaining a daily watch on the situation, and the restrictions will remain in effect until no longer necessary. As far as the affected employees are concerned, they are entitled to salary protection should their reassignment be to a position with a lower salary maximum.

WOMEN CROWN EMPLOYEES

Hon. Mr. Auld: Earlier today, I deposited with the Clerk of the House a copy of the 1975-76 report of the executive co-ordinator of women's programmes on the status of women Crown employees.

Once hon. members have reviewed the document, I believe they will concur that the staff of the women Crown employees office and the women's advisers in ministries, agencies and Crown corporations are to be congratulated for preparing a thorough, comprehensive and incisive report. The hon. members will note that the report contains a report on the status of women in the public service as a whole and on each ministry, agency and Crown corporation.

Mr. S. Smith: And it doesn't say much for you.

Hon. Mr. Auld: Hon. members have also been provided with a brief summary of this report. Additional copies of the summary are available for distribution to constituents and other interested parties.

During 1975-76 the emphasis was on planning, research, setting priorities and identifying problems, as well as extending the affirmative action programme throughout the public service. This stage in the programme's development has been completed.

I am very encouraged to note that women are taking advantage of staff training and development programmes. During 1974-1975, only 23 per cent of participants were women; during 1975-1976, the percentage increased to 53 per cent. To date, there has not been a major change in the occupational distribution of female employees or in the ratio between male and female salaries. However, the stage is now set for substantial progress in the future. Therefore, my cabinet colleagues have directed that the affirmative action programme be continued for the next three years.

The purpose of this programme has been clarified as the raising and diversification of the occupational distribution of women Crown employees. Individual managers are now responsible for developing a specification plan and timetable to achieve this goal. Women may receive accelerated training and development.

In order to stimulate a better balance, a new hiring policy has been established. In all management areas and levels in which women are under-represented and where the qualifications of applicants are equal, preference will be given to women.

A copy of the Management Board's directive in connection with this new policy has also been circulated to the hon. members.

These policy directions indicate our renewed commitment to provide Ontario government employees of both sexes with the

maximum opportunity for career development and personal and professional growth.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

Hon. Mr. Wells: In the Speech from the Throne it was indicated that the government would bring forward programmes and new initiatives to assist young people in the learning of French as a second language and provide for greater opportunities in this field. I am pleased today, Mr. Speaker, to inform members that we have released a major new programme introduced by the Ministry of Education to improve and expand the teaching and learning of French as a second language in Ontario schools. Details of the programme have been compiled in a convenient booklet, and rather than reiterate all the details here, this afternoon I am tabling the booklet itself and copies are being provided to all members.

This morning we held a comprehensive briefing session for school board representatives from across the province, and we shall be distributing the booklet I just mentioned very widely, in order to fully communicate the intent and the details of the programme to all concerned.

In June 1973 I announced in the Legislature the establishment of a ministerial committee on the teaching of French. The committee's report, which came to be known as the Gillin report, was presented to me in September 1974. It was generally acknowledged to be an excellent document reflecting a high degree of wisdom and foresight. It contained a total of 67 recommendations, and indeed, it has formed the basis of the new programme we are announcing today.

The new programme is designed to encourage school boards, by means of significant and identifiable grants and other incentives, to increase the availability and depth of programmes in French for pupils in elementary and secondary schools. Our goals are:

1. To increase the basic level of knowledge of French among all or most English-speaking pupils;
2. To provide increased opportunities for those students who have the desire and the capability to achieve a meaningful level of bilingualism;
3. To develop in our young people an increased appreciation for the presence of French as a major cultural element in Canadian life.

We recognize there is agreement among educators, parents and students that not all

young people can be or should be expected to achieve equal levels of fluency. It is not the aim of Ontario's schools to make every pupil fully bilingual. Obviously not all pupils who begin the study of French will continue long enough to achieve any recognized degree of bilingualism. Thus, the new programme is based upon a large degree of flexibility as it applies to local school boards.

While the government will provide significant grants and other incentives to encourage school boards to expand and improve French instruction in their schools, the nature and extent of the programme will continue to be school board prerogatives, based upon the needs and wishes of their constituent citizens. However, in this connection I think two comments should be made.

[2:15]

First, where a school board offers a core programme in French at the elementary school level, it should include all pupils enrolled in the grade or grades involved—except, of course, those in immersion programmes—rather than a select group of such pupils. In other words, where core programmes are offered, they will continue to be considered an integral part of the curriculum and consequently not optional for individual pupils.

Second, it is our strong and sincere desire and expectation that every school board in the province of Ontario will offer optional French immersion programmes for those students wishing to strive for high levels of fluency in French.

Of all the aspects of the programme which we are announcing today, it may be said that the most important is the totally new and greatly expanded funding which is incorporated into it. The new grants will be clearly identified as being for the supportive programmes in French as a second language at both the elementary and secondary school levels. They will be conditional upon ministry approval of the school board's plans for teaching French as a second language.

The aim is to use provincial grants as major financial incentives to encourage school boards:

1. To improve and expand their core programmes in elementary schools with a view to getting pupils started early on daily 40-minute French instruction periods—recognizing, of course, that there is still a place for 20-minute periods, especially in primary grades;

2. To improve and expand their secondary school programmes in French in order to

motivate more students to continue with French; and

3. To improve and expand the opportunities for pupils who wish to pursue higher levels of achievement in French by taking extended or immersion programmes.

The new grant plan is based on the idea that the more instructional time a pupil receives in French, the higher the level of achievement is likely to be. Thus, under the new plan the more hours of French instruction accumulated by a pupil through his or her school career, the larger the grant from the province to the school board. The new grant plan has a basic emphasis on the elementary school level, but significant incentives are to be provided that lead logically to the retention of more students in French programmes for greater lengths of time in secondary school.

It should be noted that we have been continuing our discussion and negotiations with the federal government regarding funding of French instructional programmes. We do, of course, recognize the assistance that has been forthcoming from Ottawa under the existing bilingual grant programme. However, because of the increased grants which we will henceforth be providing to school boards for the express purpose of teaching French as a second language, it is our hope that the federal government will agree to our strong suggestions that additional funds be provided to the province to assist in this endeavour. But I want to stress most definitely that our new programme is not contingent upon increased federal funding. We are proceeding, in any case. In fact, our new funding begins to take effect this September.

The overall new programme which we are announcing today has several important components representing strong initiatives which are being undertaken in vital areas that will tangibly effect the expansion and improvement of programmes of French as a second language. Without going into all the details here this afternoon, these include in addition to the increased grants, immediate action to prepare new curriculum materials and instructional aids for teachers of French, major steps to increase the number of teachers qualified and competent to teach French, and special grants to transform vacant classrooms in elementary schools into French learning centres.

In the context of Canada 1977, one paragraph from the Gillin report, written nearly three years ago, is worth particular note; and I am quoting from the report:

"In Ontario there is now happily a much wider understanding of the fact that Confederation is a partnership of two language communities and that Canada's choice of a mosaic rather than a melting pot offers a rich heritage and source of pride. There is a growing feeling that Ontario, as Quebec's nearest neighbour, should take the lead in promoting French rights and the French language. This province has the educational system, the wealth and the good will to ease some of the strains in the fabric of Confederation."

Of course, Ontario has some very important and practical reasons of its own to promote a higher level of knowledge and understanding of French among many more of its young people. It often comes as a revelation to people to learn that the number of French-speaking Ontario citizens is close to half a million. In fact, there are more citizens of Ontario whose first language is French than there are French-speaking citizens in all the other provinces of Canada combined, with the exception, of course, of the province of Quebec.

In other words, even if we look no farther than our own provincial borders, there is ample reason on human and educational grounds to promote a higher degree of understanding and appreciation between our two founding peoples. Quite simply it is an excellent way to promote the continued strength and vitality of our total population.

The province's commitment to our French-speaking citizens has been stated strongly many times. The programme we are announcing today, the teaching of French as a second language, is related to this commitment because of its potential as a binding force among our people. But there is much more to this commitment, particularly our recognition of the right of our French-speaking young people to receive their education in their own language. Major improvements have been achieved in this area during recent years and we will soon be announcing some more new initiatives that will further strengthen educational programmes for our francophone students and our French-language educational system.

Meanwhile the new plans for improving the teaching and learning of French as a second language in Ontario schools, I feel, are nothing less than exciting. I'm convinced this can be a significant milestone in the continuing improvement of the province's educational system. I'm also equally convinced that the anticipated co-operation of all school boards and all citizens will contribute significantly to making the programme work for the maxi-

mum benefit of all the young people of this province.

ORAL QUESTIONS

FRENCH-LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, maybe today I can initiate questions relating to these important statements. May I ask the Minister of Education, does he have a specific programme, in addition to the financial and other particulars he has announced today to the House, which will be undertaken by his ministry, specifically to persuade school boards all across the province in a concerted way to expand their existing French-language programmes or to initiate the new programmes for which the new funding is provided?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, Mr. Speaker as with all our programmes we have an implementation programme. That implementation programme began this morning over in the Ontario Room of the Macdonald Block at a meeting of over 200 people from school boards. Although I wasn't there myself, I'm told that practically every French-language co-ordinator from every board in Ontario was there. The implementation process began then and it will continue.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask by way of supplementary, where does it go from there? How will the minister monitor it? How will he pursue it? How will he personally, as minister, attempt to see that it happens?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, we have a regional office structure of the Ministry of Education which assists in these endeavours. These offices will be carrying on implementation work, explaining the programme, and urging boards to take those actions that are necessary for them to get on stream with the programme. One of them is to amass the accumulated hours for all the pupils in their system. They will be beginning that right away so the programme can start, as far as the funding incentives are concerned, in September 1977. From there on in, our people will be assisting boards.

It might be of interest to the hon. member to know that there are only two boards in Ontario at the present time that do not have any French-language programme in the elementary school system.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary to the minister, if he could clarify this for me: The figures in the booklet indicate amounts recognized for grants under the new plan, rather

than outright grants made by the government. Do I take it that it is required that the school board increase its own expenditure accordingly in order to receive the extra grant from the province? Does it have to increase its own level of expenditure in order to get the extra money from the province?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, Mr. Speaker, as with all educational grants that we give, and the kind of grants the federal government gives us, it's a partnership arrangement. The commitment to the programme necessitates each person honouring that commitment by financing part of it. We will finance in the elementary school at the rate of 60 per cent on the average in this province of the amount that a board is eligible for under those new eligible grant figures.

Mr. S. Smith: Might I just follow that up with another supplementary, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: If it's a supplementary to your own question, perhaps we'll allow it.

Mr. S. Smith: It is supplementary to my own. What I would like to ask is, why has the minister chosen that particular method at a time when the boards themselves are having great difficulty finding financial resources and at a time when the minister would want to give an incentive to boards to go into more French, rather than simply match their further spending in a way that's really not much of an incentive at all?

Hon. Mr. Wells: As I said, this is a partnership arrangement. The incentive is there. The amount of grants that will be available over the next three years is significant. It's going to go from \$5 million to \$17 million to something over \$20 million in increased grants. That's the share that we pay.

Mr. S. Smith: That's if they pay more themselves.

Hon. Mr. Wells: As my friend knows, we have just as much difficulty arranging financing and striking a budget as the school boards do. I think we're making a very significant show of support for this programme in our funding.

Mr. Mancini: Cosmetic.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Another very important thing that must be borne in mind is that through this method of funding we establish a degree of equalization across the province.

Mr. Lewis: On the financing, may I ask the minister, if he does receive additional

federal money, does he intend to add that money on to the proposed grant formula he's set out in his leaflet, or does he intend to deduct the additional federal money from the total provincial commitment?

Hon. Mr. Wells: We intend to deduct it from the total provincial commitment.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: So that's what it's all about.

Mr. Ruston: You're paying lip service.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me just say to my friend that—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me just say that I didn't hide that fact. If he will recall, I said very clearly in my statement that this programme is not conditional upon increased federal assistance.

Mr. Lewis: Right. But you didn't say you'd take away the federal money.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We have devised what we think is a proper programme and we've achieved the level of support that we can provide to the boards. Let me tell my friend that the federal government at this time is supplying \$6.8 million, a pittance compared to the amount of increased money we're talking about putting into this programme. Any increased money that they give, while it will be very welcome, will certainly not come significantly near the amount of money the programme's going to cost.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary, the member for Kitchener.

Mr. Lewis: This is an important question.

Mr. Breithaupt: Supplementary: With respect to the ongoing involvement of the regional offices the minister has referred to, is the minister therefore announcing to the House that these regional offices will continue in spite of the views of the Henderson-Kennedy committee and others that those offices should be closed and moneys thereby saved? Perhaps those moneys could be used to make the programme work.

An hon. member: Announce that tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The regional offices of the Ministry of Education are continuing in existence and are serving a useful purpose. I might just say to my friend, in talking about federal involvement, our Throne Speech came in on March 29 and we have presented the complete details of our programme here with financing and a solid commitment to this programme. The federal government nearly a year ago said it was going to put more money into the educational system for the teaching of French as a second language. We haven't seen one extra red cent.

Mr. Lewis: I wouldn't be too self-hypnotized by that. It's been almost three years since the Gillin report.

Mr. Speaker: A new question from the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lewis: Surely that rejoinder of the minister's would allow me one tiny brief supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Breithaupt: I think it would.

Mr. Lewis: Simple justice.

Mr. Speaker: Since it's been the feeling that it's a very important topic, I'll allow a supplementary here and I have one over there.

Mr. Lewis: Since the minister has decreed that the provincial budget can in fact stand this amount of money without additional federal funding, if he persuades the federal government to take part—

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is not contingent on federal funding.

Mr. Lewis: Well, that's what the minister has said—that he will do it. It is not contingent on federal funding. I'll start again. Since the minister has therefore set out and decreed that he can do it without federal funding, if the federal money comes through, why doesn't he add it on in order to be able to pay more than the 60 per cent, as the leader of the Liberal Party asked, and thereby provide an incentive which will create an even greater enthusiasm throughout the province of Ontario?

Interjections.

[2:30]

Hon. Mr. Wells: I wouldn't consider doing that because we've worked this programme out on what we think is an equitable basis; the financial components are as they should be. If that federal money comes through, we

would, perhaps, like to use it for special education, or something. It would free up money for other schools.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: Now you have said it.

Hon. Mr. Wells: And you can't be opposed to supplementary education.

Mr. S. Smith: One final supplementary, in case I misunderstood the minister. He is insisting, of course, that the school board basically spend a dollar and he'll match it on a 60-40 basis. Is he suggesting that the federal grants for this province for French education also require that he spend a dollar of his budget and they'll match that one in addition? Is that a similar arrangement? Did he suggest that to the House?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No.

Mr. S. Smith: Then why are you doing it?

Hon. Mr. Wells: It's not. The federal arrangement is based upon the cost per pupil of teaching French as a second language. It's based upon that. Out of the programme, we now get about a little over \$6 million; we're spending well over \$20 million, which we're now passing out to school boards, under the federal bilingualism programme for French as a second language. Now, there's another component—French as a minority language, which also has to fit into that.

Mr. S. Smith: Make it an incentive.

RENTAL HOUSING

Mr. Lewis: May I ask the Minister of Housing about these 3,000 new units of rental accommodation which he is attempting to stimulate through this Ontario rental construction grant? Can he indicate in more than general terms where he expects them to be located? I take it the figure 3,000 comes from some specific estimate. Can he tell us which community?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I think it's fair to say the majority of the starts would be in the Metropolitan Toronto area. This is where we are experiencing the greatest problem in having new construction starts, following through with the present federal programme of the \$1,200 loan. However, as I've indicated, the programme will be on a provincial-wide basis if there are other areas where our grant would fit in and would assist to bring them

on stream. But I do expect most of the new starts in the Toronto area.

Mr. Lewis: Since you have got your sights so low, relatively speaking—merely an additional 3,000 units for all of Ontario in the next year, involving a fairly small amount of money compared to the housing market generally—I take it that you've pretty well given up on the possibility that the supply of rental accommodation will be adequate in this province for the free market forces to reassert themselves? You've accepted rent review in perpetuity by a programme of this paucity.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I think the hon. member is aware that the 3,000 units are, as he has correctly described it, an estimate. Over and above that, under the existing federal programme, we anticipate there will be another 5,000 starts—

Mr. Lewis: That's still very little.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —over and above the 3,000 we're referring to—that can be brought on market; they might not have been, without this extra assistance. If we can get—and perhaps I'm being optimistic; I think I have to be—an increase of 8,000 rental units in this province each year, I think we shall find such a good market situation that eventually we might not have rent review, which is the desire of all of us in this Legislature.

Mr. Renwick: One of the elements that the minister indicated was a problem with respect to the construction of rental housing was the mortgage interest rate and the availability of mortgage funds. Has the minister seen the Treasurer's (Mr. McKeough's) report, from the statistical bank branch, which indicates that something less than two per cent of the available assets for investments of insurance companies in Ontario are used in mortgage lending?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I'm aware of those statistics but I'm also aware that when we were discussing with the lenders of this province the types of incentives and programmes that we should, perhaps, be considering in an effort to stimulate the housing market in Ontario, we were advised that the lending institutions—including insurance companies trust companies as well as banks—would be very interested in having their money go into housing in this province. With regard to the numbers you're looking at: I think it's fair to say—it's been our experience in the past—that we have every reason to believe the situation will turn around significantly.

Mr. Breaugh: Supplementary: Since the minister seems to have targeted this programme on Metro, given that the previous programme didn't work in Toronto for various reasons, what makes the minister believe the additional \$600 per unit will make this programme go? Secondly, what possible indication does he have that he would get approvals to build such rental units that wouldn't have been built this year anyway?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I trust the hon. member is aware that one of the reasons the federal programme was not working in Metropolitan Toronto was because of the current market rent situation and the fact there was not the sort of return that the investors were prepared to consider. Our evaluation, and taking a look at what we think the market can handle, was able to show us that with the extra \$600 per unit we would in fact be able to make it—

An hon. member: More encouraging.

Mr. Angus: More profitable.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —of interest to the developers to build in the Toronto market and we are hoping that they will in—

Mr. Angus: More profit.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —fact do that.

Mr. Speaker, I hear the interjection of “more profit.”

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. minister ignore the interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I will ignore the interjection but not the person who did it. He's the one who really should be ignored.

Interjections.

Mr. Hall: Supplementary, to the minister: Would the minister please outline in a little more detail for those who are interested what would happen in specific numbers—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The original question had to do with where these rental housing units should be built. It is not the whole field of rental housing, so we should confine ourselves to the original question and the answer to that.

Mr. Hall: I was going to touch on that.

Mr. Speaker: May I just remind the hon. members that supplementary questions are supposed to be related to the answer to the original question, not the whole broad field of rental housing. It gets very broad and we

could carry on all day at this rate. As I say, the original question had to do with where these 3,000 or so units were going to be built. Is your supplementary related to that?

Mr. Hall: Yes, Mr. Speaker. My concern is that the units won't be built unless the minister delineates more information as to the succeeding years of the programme. I would like to draw that out so that these units can get started this year.

Mr. Speaker: Does that relate to where it is going to be built?

Mr. Nixon: Right on.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister may relate it to that.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Martel: It is a Liberal policy statement.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Did the hon. member indicate what the past experience has been with the programme, the federal programme alone? Well, I am sorry then. I didn't understand the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that that's far away from the general question, the area of the question, in the first place. Now I say it's not the whole broad field of housing which we are questioning about right at the present time, so perhaps you can work your question in later.

Is there a question related to this question—the original question? Does the hon. member for Sarnia have a supplementary to this question?

Mr. Bullbrook: Yes, I have a supplementary that's actually supplementary to the question of the member for Riverdale, which I consider—

Mr. Speaker: I think it was a bit broad too, I agree.

Mrs. Campbell: But you allowed it.

Mr. Bullbrook: Maybe you don't want me to go ahead.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member—

Mr. Bullbrook: His question was obviously out of order.

Mr. Speaker: I think so too. Well, we will get back to these extra questions later then. The hon. member for Hamilton West with his new question.

If you give people an inch, they will take a mile. We try to be as lenient and generous as possible but really we should confine ourselves to the original question and the answer thereto if possible, and then we can come back to other questions later, I am sure. If we do that, there will be more time for questions and I will hear the hon. member for Hamilton West now.

LAKE POLLUTION

Mr. S. Smith: A question for the Minister of the Environment, Mr. Speaker: Could the minister say whether the report in today's Toronto Star concerning a list of polluted lakes is correct? Is he now prepared to release this information, when he considers that I first asked for a list of such lakes on November 1 and was assured at that time by the then Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) that he would be glad to table a list of the lakes he had in his possession, and that it would take a little time but he would be glad to table it. That was November 1. Can the minister confirm this story?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, the story is inaccurate. It is full of inaccuracies and distortions. Very briefly—

Mr. Breithaupt: Did you want to make a statement?

Mr. Singer: My goodness.

Mr. Peterson: Will you be suing?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Very briefly, what I assume the reporter is referring to is a document called Vacation Fishing in Ontario. It's a layman's guide to fishing in Ontario, and indicates, in the various lakes that have been analysed, where there are high levels of mercury or PCBs, and whether or not the fish in certain lakes will be safe to eat. It generally gives information on the lakes that have been analysed. The lakes will be listed in this booklet.

It's really a compilation of all the information we've had for some time, going back for two or three years of testing. It involves the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Health. The heading of it is, as a matter of fact, A Modern Guide to Eating Sport Fish. It indicates the lakes that may be contaminated, what the safe levels are and information of that kind for sport fishermen, particularly those from outside Ontario.

There's been no sharp debate in cabinet about this. It has not been to cabinet. It's not been rewritten to make it look rosy, and I was never called by this reporter to comment on the book or to indicate when it will be released.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: Let's put the matter in its simplest terms: Is it or is it not a fact that the fish from almost 180 Ontario lakes are felt to be inedible for reasons of pollution? Can the minister explain why it has taken over six months and I still have not received the list that I was promised?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I don't know anything about the list the member asked of the Minister of Natural Resources. All I'm saying is that this is a fisherman's guide. It is information that we have now in three ministries—that we've had for some time. It's a matter of putting this all together, getting it to the printers, and getting it out for circulation.

Mr. Singer: Is it true?

Mr. S. Smith: Is it true or not?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Is what true?

Mr. S. Smith: That 180 lakes have fish that are inedible due to pollution.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: No, not necessarily. No.

Mr. S. Smith: What is true?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: It says that the booklet will deal with 180 lakes where there is popular sport fishing going on. It will indicate whether the fish in those lakes are contaminated or not—

Mr. Breithaupt: How many lakes are there?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —and if they are, to what level. It doesn't necessarily mean all 180 lakes contain contaminated fish. As a matter of fact, that figure is wrong. It's over 200 lakes that will be dealt with.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: Since it has been within the Ministry of the Environment and other ministries for some considerable time, would the minister like to confide to the House how many lakes are in fact polluted in terms of fishing for edible purposes?

Mr. Singer: Or how many one shouldn't eat the fish from?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, we have tested fish in over 200 lakes. At the present time

this testing and analysis is going on. I don't want to give figures, when we're involving four or five different species of fish, for example.

Mr. Lewis: But it will be out; the book will be published.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes. I would suggest that the member wait for the book—

Mr. Lewis: Oh, thank you.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —and then he will get an accurate, detailed statement of just what the situation is in Ontario—

Mr. Singer: Don't eat the fish.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —rather than my giving him general information at this point, without having it at my fingertips.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: Do I take it that while we are waiting for this list, it would be a wise precaution for no one to eat any fish from any lake in Ontario—that we should wait for this precise point to come up?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Nonsense.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Some of your friends believe the fishing season hasn't opened.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: If the member has some information he wants about a specific area or a specific lake he might ask me for it.

Mr. S. Smith: How are we supposed to know, if the minister won't tell us?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I have said over and over again that the information that's going into this layman's guide is available now. It's being compiled into one booklet for tourist information, and it's not new information.

Mr. Cassidy: It wasn't available when we asked about it.

Mr. S. Smith: Freedom of information is one thing, but holding back hazardous information is quite another.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Second question? Order.

Mr. S. Smith: At least there is a good turnout today.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You are the hazard in this place.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Mr. S. Smith: A question for the Premier: In keeping with the statement on the gloomy side of the energy picture as was presented by the Minister of Energy (Mr. Taylor) in this House on Friday, and the expected announcements by President Carter in the United States, will the Premier consider, by way of an example to people of this province to help change attitudes and bring home the realities, giving up his full-size government car and asking his cabinet colleagues also to—

[2:45]

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Drive a Datsun like you? Great supporter of Canadian cars.

Mr. S. Smith: —take on mid-size Canadian-built cars instead, as an example to the population?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: He has asked us to give up our tennis racquets.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General says I've asked my cabinet colleagues to give up their tennis racquets. I really haven't. I'm a great believer in physical fitness.

Mr. Breithaupt: They haven't got the energy to use them. That is an entirely different thing.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'm in favour of all of us trying to set something of an example. I attempt to do this, and perhaps not so well. I'm concerned about the energy situation, and I recognize that some authorities consume more gas than others.

Mr. Peterson: How profound. Such penetrating insight into the obvious.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There are other offsetting features, too, because some automobiles—and I think this would apply to most of those that are owned by the government of the province of Ontario—at least have some economic impact in terms of their

manufacture and employment of people within this province, which to me is also very relevant. It may not be as relevant to the member for Hamilton West.

Mr. S. Smith: Mid-size cars are also made in this province.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Is the member's car made in this province?

Mr. S. Smith: The mid-size car that I'm driving now is.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Now? How's the Datsun? Listen, that made a great hit with American Motors. The fellows there were delighted with the member's Datsun.

Mr. S. Smith: We are talking about the government. The Premier will say anything not to give up his big car, won't he?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact I can't comment on the actual size or the mileage. In the popular lexicon of describing the size of cars it certainly is not by any means the largest car. At the time it was purchased it was not the largest car made by that manufacturer, nor is it as large as a lot of other cars—

Mr. Good: Nor was it made in Canada, so don't kid us.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —being driven by heads of government. I am always prepared to reassess anything, because an automobile is about the last thing that I'm interested in, very frankly, in terms of personal comfort. I am interested in safety; I am interested in getting somewhere—

Mr. Breithaupt: With your belt on.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —with my belt on. Certainly, I would be quite prepared to consider any reasonable suggestion. However, I would say to the member for Hamilton West—

Mr. Mancini: How about those two-minute answers the Speaker was talking about?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am trying not to pay any attention to the interjections—

Mr. MacDonald: Then don't.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —but some of them are provocative. What did the member really ask, whether I was going to change cars?

Mr. Stokes: You just remember that tonight.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, I have to say that under the restraints imposed by the Treasurer, my turn for a new automobile doesn't come up for a period of time yet. When that period of time comes up—which may be after another date, some time down the path—if the hon. member is still here, which is doubtful, I would be quite prepared to have that question asked again.

Mr. Conway: Where is your condominium, Bill? Where is your condominium?

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, since the matter has not been adequately dealt with, let me ask whether in fact the Premier is willing to have other cabinet ministers follow the example of the former Minister of Energy (Mr. Timbrell) and drive mid-size cars as an example to the population that we have to be cost conscious?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, here I am not an expert. I must say to the hon. member for Hamilton West that I am not sure that it's a question of mid-size or not-so-mid-size or smaller; I think it's a question of the amount of gasoline consumed per mile. I am told by some that it does relate to weight. Weight isn't always necessarily relevant to whether we describe it as a large or small car, and it also doesn't relate to the number of dollars that are spent on that particular vehicle.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Please all return at 9 o'clock and you will have all your questions answered then.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Premier will answer the question.

Mr. Warner: Lorne is listening.

Mr. Lewis: Is this your windup? Is this the preamble?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: Is this getting ready for tonight?

Hon. Mr. Davis: What are you driving?

Mr. Lewis: I don't know what I'm driving.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Is there a supplementary on this? Order, please. We are wasting valuable time here. A final supplementary from the member for London Centre.

Mr. Peterson: Since the Premier revealed that he understands energy efficiency has something to do with weight of automobiles, is he considering any taxing measures or

licensing fee differentials in order to encourage—

Mr. Hodgson: Such nonsense.

Mr. Peterson: —the use of efficient vehicles and discourage the use of less efficient vehicles?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I certainly wouldn't want, ever, to usurp your prerogatives and suggest that wasn't really a proper supplementary question. In that I've been asked, I will try to answer it. That would be a matter, obviously, for the Treasurer or the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) to deal with.

I should also point out that the former Minister of Energy, who is always so helpful to me, just didn't whisper to me, he told me that his middle-size car, smaller car, probably is taking more gallons per mile to run than the car I happen to drive.

Mr. B. Newman: But the minister's weight is different.

Hon. Mr. Davis: What are you driving?

An hon. member: Resign.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Lewis: It's unbelievable.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Chairman of Management Board.

Mr. Lewis: Ah, sanity returns.

Mr. Speaker: I believe there is a question. The hon. member for Beaches-Woodbine has the floor.

WOMEN CROWN EMPLOYEES

Ms. Bryden: I have a question of the Chairman of Management Board, relating to his statement on the report of the executive co-ordinator of women's programmes: Since he admits that no progress has been made in the last year to change the occupational distribution of female Crown employees, could he indicate to us whether he is planning to move up to full-time status the 14 women's advisers, who are only part-time at the present, and whether he is also going to accept the recommendation in the report that the monitoring of recruitment should be given high priority?

Hon. Mr. Auld: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I didn't say no progress has been made. I said progress had been made, that it was slow, that it was sort of the start, the kick-

off. There is no intention to require ministries to have full-time women's advisers, because the ministries have worked out, according to their own needs and their own problems, the staff they assume they require.

I think the really significant step is the fact that the ministries are required, on the MBR programme, to set out a programme of the aims and objectives in that ministry to rectify imbalances. That will have to be submitted to Management Board and will be reviewed halfway through the year. As with other programmes, we will be able to monitor the progress and we will require objectives to be set out before the programme begins its second stage.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York Centre.

Mr. Stong: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Was there a supplementary?

Ms. Bryden: What about the second part of my question.

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary question?

Ms. Bryden: No; part of my initial question was the monitoring of recruitment.

Mr. Speaker: Right. You have opportunity for a question, which you have asked, and you may have a supplementary on the—oh, I'm sorry.

Hon. Mr. Auld: I didn't deal directly with recruitment. In the management by results programme there is a target; that target has to be achieved and it will be done partially by recruitment, partially by promotion. If the hon. member will read the copy of the directive that was circulated with the report, what we are saying is that "in the management-excluded areas and levels where women are now under-represented and where the qualifications of applicants are equal, preference shall be given to women."

RADIAL TIRES

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial relations: In terms of automobile safety, with which the Premier is concerned, is this minister aware of complaints registered by consumers with respect to manufacture and sale of steel-belted radial tires, particularly by the Firestone Company, which tires break down under any conditions and become road

hazards? And does this minister have any knowledge about these tires being withdrawn from the market in the United States? If so—or if not—would he consider the matter urgent enough to issue the appropriate directives removing these tires from our market?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, one of the things we have always tried to determine is whether or not a product safety problem is one of national or provincial importance. I would certainly assume that one involving tires is one of national importance. I have not received any information—

Mr. Davidson: Trying to get off the hook.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I have not received any information concerning their withdrawal from the market in the United States.

Mr. Moffatt: Besides, it's federal.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We have had some complaints which we normally forward to the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs because they have the testing facilities, they have the responsibility and they have an Act called The Hazardous Products Act. Therefore, in order to reduce the amount of entanglement—

Mr. Peterson: Sydney, why don't you ever study? What is the matter with you?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: In order to reduce the amount of entanglement between levels of government I feel it should be dealt with in Ottawa. However, if the hon. member has specific instances of cases involving Ontario residents, we would be glad to take them up.

Mr. S. Smith: You will mail them to Ottawa for him.

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary: The matter of safety on the highways in Ontario is my concern as well as that of other users of the highways—

Mr. Speaker: Your supplementary question?

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, I would ask this minister if he does not consider safety on provincial highways in Ontario of concern to this government, and would he not act rather than wait for another level?

Hon. W. Newman: Of course he does, you idiot.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Of course, Mr. Speaker, we have not received as far as I know any complaints which would indicate

to us that there is a serious hazard. We have received about five complaints in the past year. That doesn't indicate to me that it is a widespread safety problem. But if the hon. member has cases, we will be glad to look into them and see what we can do.

Mr. Renwick: He just gave you one.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Mr. Martel: A question of the Minister of Labour: In late February, the president of Sudbury and District Labour Council wrote to the minister requesting a meeting with her and Michael Starr in Sudbury to discuss the Workmen's Compensation Board. To date, she hasn't responded. Can she tell the House why she hasn't and if she is coming to Sudbury to discuss the problems surrounding the board there?

Mr. Angus: She is coming next week.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would apologize if I have not responded within that length of time because we make a valiant effort to respond within a reasonable period of time to all requests. I do not recall that letter, but I shall check and make sure about it and respond as rapidly as possible.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. Can the minister advise us as to when the legislation will be introduced into this House transferring all of the youth residential facilities into his ministry, pursuant to the Speech from the Throne?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the target date for such transfer is July 1 of this year. The legislation, although I cannot give her a specific day on which it will be introduced in the House, will clearly be introduced during this session.

Mr. McClellan: Are you sure about that? Have you checked with Bill?

Mr. Nixon: Better bring it in this afternoon.

NORTH PICKERING PROJECT

Mr. Godfrey: A question of the Premier, Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact the royal commission into the North Pickering land

acquisition was formed in early October and has to date heard less than three hours' testimony, and in view of the recent resignation of one of the commissioners which will necessitate further delays, what steps is the government taking to reassure former land owners that there will ever be a decision in this matter?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the former land owners right now there will be.

Mr. Martel: You might not be around.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Godfrey: Is the Premier aware that two of the former land owners are now deceased, since the action began, and that there is every likelihood that this may occur to several more before an answer is received?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I just hope for the sake of the hon. member that they were not patients of his that he refers to.

Mr. Deans: No, but they were probably supporters of yours.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, you mean they weren't supporters of his?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well certainly they are supporters of his, they're deceased.

Mr. Speaker, I can only say to the hon. member, part of the delay—and I am sure the hon. member is aware of this—was because of commission counsel. It hasn't been because of the government. We are as anxious to have this move ahead as anyone else. But we cannot control the functioning of the commission itself. I was asked by his leader, I think Friday morning, during certain discussions here in the House about a letter from one of the members of the commission which I now have seen and which we are taking a look at. My hope is that the commission can start moving ahead again. We will be dealing with it very shortly. But I can say to the hon. member, to assure his constituents, that they will in fact be dealt with.

[3:00]

Mr. Singer: Supplementary: I wonder if the Premier can tell us the form in which this inquiry is likely to proceed, because it seems obvious that it can't proceed in the

form in which it was originally contemplated.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We were talking about the delay in proceedings.

Mr. Singer: Oh, no.

Mr. Speaker: That's a good question and the hon. member may get to it later. The member for Windsor-Walkerville with a new question.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the question was how it was going to proceed. The Premier said it was going to proceed, surely it is a proper supplementary to ask how.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. As I understood it, the question he was asking was about the delay in the proceedings. The hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville.

Mr. Singer: It is fascinating how you find time to call us to order but you don't find time to call them to order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Singer: All the time.

ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL

Mr. B. Newman: I have a question of the Minister of Labour; it deals with the Rockwell International of Canada Limited, a stamping and plating plant in the city of Windsor. Is the minister aware that as a result of this plant closing 109 employees will lose their jobs, and that 75 of the 109 are in an age category where it will be extremely difficult for them to get employment? Will the minister look into this situation? Will she confer with her colleague, the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Bennett), contact Rockwell International and attempt to convince them to remain in the city of Windsor? If they do not intend to remain in the city, will she ask them to definitely prove to her that they are leaving because of having excess manufacturing capacity in the province of Ontario, and prove that they do have excess manufacturing capacity?

Hon. B. Stephenson: That's a fair list of requests, which I shall attempt to follow through with. I am aware of the situation. I was not aware that 75 per cent of the staff members in that institution were of an age where it would be difficult for them to relocate. We had some activity planned, in

terms of the development of a conjoint action group on the MAIA base with the Department of Manpower, in the hope that we would be able to assist these workers. I shall attempt to find out all of the answers to the questions which have been asked me.

Mr. B. Newman: Supplementary: Will the minister assure the employees that their pension rights and benefits are protected and that there is no chance they will lose any of these benefits?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Under certain conditions it is possible to do that, based upon the compliance with employment standards; but under some other conditions it is not always possible to do so. I shall certainly investigate all of these problems and attempt to do what we can for them.

CANDIDATE'S CONDUCT

Mr. Cassidy: I have a question of the Premier: Does the Premier consider it a misrepresentation for a person who has not been elected to this Legislature to use the term MPP after his name?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the member for Ottawa Centre sent me a copy of a letter that he had sent, I believe, to the chief electoral officer, raising one or two matters which indicated—

Mr. Mancini: The NDP do it in my riding.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —that the Progressive Conservative candidate in that riding was somewhat anticipatory, I guess, and enthusiastic, in that he was describing himself as a member of this House somewhat in advance of the fact taking place.

Mr. Breithaupt: That's called wishful thinking.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I understand that this may or may not be proper. I don't know. If it isn't I can assure the hon. member it will cease.

Interjections.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary: I appreciate the Premier's reply. May I send to him a copy of a letter which has gone to Mr. Cameron from the Clerk of the House in which in fact he finds that it is a serious misrepresentation and asks that it does cease?

Interjections.

NIAGARA CENTRE FOR YOUTH CARE

Mr. Kerrio: My question is to the Minister of Health. Will he tell the House whether he or his staff has had any recent discussions with the Niagara centre for youth care, especially in light of the government's reorganization of children's services; and will he tell the House when he intends to give the centre permanent and continued support for the work they are doing after the fact of seed money being given to the youth care centre?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: So far as I know, the last meetings of which I am aware—and there may have been others since—were about six weeks ago with the people in the Niagara youth centre, confirming that we have been able to free up from other programmes \$50,000 of seed money for 1977-1978 for that programme. Now I doubt very much that my staff in the children's mental health branch would have had any more definitive discussions with them than that. Inasmuch as the branch will be going to the Ministry of Community and Social Services, with the legislation and programmes under the capable direction of my colleague, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Norton), and the associate deputy minister, they wouldn't want to make any commitments which perhaps they couldn't later meet. But as the member knows, through some judicious pruning of other programmes we were able to find that \$50,000 for them.

Mr. Kerrio: Supplementary: In view of the answer, Mr. Speaker, in my supplementary I was going to ask the minister—because this portfolio has changed—is he prepared to recommend to his colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services that the request for aid for this centre be given immediate consideration by the new branch, if the Minister of Health can't consider it in his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I don't think there's ever been any doubt in the minds of Mr. Finlay, the director of my branch, and our ministry that this eventually is a programme we would like to support. The difficulty has been to find the money to get it started in a time of restraint; that we've been able to do.

Certainly the decisions as to which programmes will be begun, enhanced, whatever, after July 1 will be those of my colleague; certainly come July 1 we will turn over to that ministry our programmes with whatever

comments and recommendations we might have to make at the time. Obviously we in the Ministry of Health—those of the staff who don't go with the branch to that ministry—would be prepared to advise them in any way we can to assist after the transfer.

ALGONQUIN PARK

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, on Friday the hon. member for Renfrew North asked me a question on Algonquin Park.

According to the regulations under The Provincial Parks Act the use of outboard motors is permitted on 26 lakes. The ministry has continued to permit the use of outboard motors on the remaining lakes, since it was felt that a reasonable period of time was necessary in order for park users to adjust to the proposed ban, and to permit the development of ways and means of introducing it with the least destruction of traditional use of the park interior.

The Ministry of Natural Resources expects to be in a position to announce in the near future how the ban on outboard motors will be implemented. It is appreciated that by working in this manner the implementation of the plan takes longer. However, it does take into consideration the feelings and the needs of the various types of park users and recognizes the hardships that any regulation change creates.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Algoma, I believe, asked me a question on the Lake Superior Provincial Park. Again the Ministry of Natural Resources informs me that the master plan will be completed in the early part of June and will be released to the public at that time.

Mr. Conway: Supplementary: I might thank the minister for his speedy reply and I just wanted to clarify a point. Am I to assume, then, for this coming season, there will not be the blanket ban that is suggested in the Algonquin Park master plan, and that in fact for the summer season, 1977, the regulations will be as they were in 1976?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: That is my understanding, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Eakins: Supplementary: I'd just like to ask the minister if in his view, outboard motors also includes electric motors?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: This would be my understanding. Again, Mr. Speaker, I must confess I will have to find out that whether electric motors are also included as outboards.

I agree they are very silent motors and maybe they're not, but I'll find out.

Mr. Nixon: Did you say you were running again?

DRUG PUBLICATIONS

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Attorney General. Pursuant to the drug-promoting book *High Times* being refused entry into Canada in January, what monitoring is his ministry doing of similar publications appearing on the bookshelves in Ontario; and what is the Attorney General doing in his own ministry, or in co-operation with the federal authorities, to stop the widespread bookstore distribution, which has taken place largely in the last two years, of the slick, sophisticated magazines which glamorize and promote the use of all kinds of drugs?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, it's not the responsibility of our ministry to monitor publications on the bookstands. We're not in the business of censorship—

Mr. Breithaupt: You've got a lot of headlines out of it.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —I can assure the members of this Legislature. On the other hand, I have a concern—

Mr. S. Smith: The federal Minister of National Revenue does it for you.

Mr. Conway: Judy LaMarsh will do your job.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Maybe you'll learn something if you listen for a moment, Sean.

An hon. member: What about freedom of information?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. S. Smith: The bureaucrats in Revenue will do it for you.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: At a meeting here in Toronto in February, all of my colleagues, namely the other Attorneys General of Canada, joined with me in an expression of concern to the federal government in relation to the responsibilities to be exercised at the border. We simply indicated that we felt there was a certain responsibility that obviously should be exercised under The Customs and Excise Tax Act and we asked the federal government to exercise its responsibilities at the border, rather than leaving this whole problem to the prosecutorial authorities.

The Ministry of the Attorney General is not an investigative branch. We are legal advisers to the Crown. We are available to our police departments, who are doing the best they can, when they come to us for advice. That, in our view, with respect to this particular problem, is the extent of our responsibility.

Mr. Swart: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is the minister aware of the publication called *Head*, which bills itself, and I quote, as "a magazine for people who enjoy getting high and mellowing out," and contains an article in the current publication which says, "Ten Ways Not to Smuggle Your Dope"? Will the minister look into this magazine and take it up with the federal authorities to see if this and similar magazines can be stopped?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, on the basis that one of the hon. members of the Legislature has drawn this to our attention, we'll of course look at the magazine.

Mr. Conway: Supplementary: Having regard to the Attorney General's clear disavowal this afternoon as to his function and that of his ministry in the area of censorship and monitoring of the print media, I wonder if he would briefly outline to us the role he sees for his ministry in that regard, because we've all been impressed by his statements of some months ago in a related regard?

Mr. S. Smith: Exactly: You're dumping it all on Revenue Canada.

Mr. Cunningham: It's called sucking and blowing.

An hon. member: No, that's Bob Ruston's line.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I don't know what I can add to my previous answer, Mr. Speaker—

An hon. member: You want the press, but you don't want to do the work.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —except to say this, that there are obviously—

Mr. S. Smith: You get the headlines, they do the work.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —provisions of The Criminal Code of Canada about which we have certain specific responsibilities in respect to prosecutions. The point that has been made by all the Attorneys General across the country is that a very large amount of public resources can be directed toward prosecuting breaches of The Criminal Code in this particular area because of the problems—and it is a

real problem—with respect to the enormous amount of objectionable material that is coming across the border. So we indicated that in our view—

An hon. member: Come on; enough is enough.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —as I mentioned a moment ago, the federal government did have a responsibility, in relation to their specific responsibilities under The Customs and Excise Tax Act.

Mr. S. Smith: Save money and avoid the law.

Mr. Bullbrook: Did you ever hear an Attorney General garble like that? Goodness gracious.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We're wasting time here.

Mr. Breithaupt: You'd just rather not do it.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Notwithstanding that fact, Mr. Speaker, we still intend to carry out our responsibilities in prosecuting the charges that are laid by the police officers in this province, and we will continue to do that. As I've said on other occasions, and I will repeat today, I think this is a very difficult issue. Obviously, I suspect, there are very few people in this House who are comfortable with the concept of censorship—

Mr. S. Smith: Yes, that's right.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —but the truth of the matter is that there are—and even the member for Sarnia should wake up to this fact on occasion—occasions when someone has to draw a line.

Mr. Bullbrook: You are pathetic on your feet.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: You know you're only here once every three weeks.

Mr. Speaker: Is there a further answer to this question?

Mr. Bullbrook: Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[3:15]

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Despite the grave difficulties that are inherent in this problem, I say, on behalf of myself and the other Attorneys General in this country, that we will continue to exercise our responsibilities.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk with his question.

Mr. Nixon: Do you mean there are no more supplementaries, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Right.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Mr. Nixon: I have a question of the Minister of Health. I wonder if he can assure the House that the ambulance service for the people in the Prescott, Winchester and Morrisburg areas will be continued, since the drivers have indicated they will not work past this Friday because their cheques have been bouncing? Doesn't the minister have some responsibility to supervise the ambulance services across the province under The Ambulance Act?

An hon. member: Otherwise the patients bounce.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The particular service in question is a privately-owned, privately-operated ambulance service serving Prescott, Morrisburg and Winchester. We've made it clear that if, for whatever reason, the service is suspended, we would move in and ensure that it's maintained.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary: Under The Ambulance Act, can the minister see that the drivers who have not been paid, or the other service people who have not been paid, have some protection under the responsibilities of the Ministry of Health?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I think the particular employees are in fact protected through the normal labour laws. Inasmuch as they are a private company from whom we are buying a service, then we do not have any authority to take them over unless they either surrender the licence or the strike, which has apparently been threatened, does come about; then we could step in and take over and make sure that the service to the people of that part of the province is maintained.

Mr. Speaker: One final supplementary.

Mr. Nixon: Is there a situation down there where the ministry has called for tenders for another ambulance service and there is some delay in making a decision as to the award of the tender?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I don't believe so. I'll check on that but I'm not aware of the call for tenders in that area.

HIGHWAY EXTENSION

Mr. Wildman: I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Could the minister report to the House on his progress, or lack of it, in negotiations with the Garden River Band of Ojibways regarding the four-lane highway, in light of the letter he wrote to the chief indicating that the MTC did not see a completion of the four-lane for several years? If that is the case, how many years does he anticipate it will take, and what measures does the ministry intend to take, to deal with the problems faced by residents of Macdonald township whose properties were optioned at least two years ago?

Hon. Mr. Snow: The letter that the hon. member refers to: I wrote to Chief Boissoneau of the Garden River Band following a very late night meeting we had with the band at which the hon. member was in attendance. Following that meeting, following the presentation of the preliminary plans that the band had prepared of their reserve, I sent that letter to Chief Boissoneau. To my knowledge, I've had no reply or response from the chief; and we've also been awaiting a copy of the final plans.

As I understand it, the plan we were shown that evening was their draft plan and they would be giving us what they would call their final land-use plan.

First of all, I asked the band to give permission to take some soil tests on reserve land on the opposite side of the river from the Macdonald township area, which the hon. member is referring to, so that we could firmly establish the location of the river crossing at the new bridge and determine whether it would be possible to put the bridge exactly where the reserve wanted it. This was, I believe, 200 or 300 feet from where we had shown it. That location would be acceptable to us if the soil will allow it to be built.

Again, I am not aware that we have had that permission, but our regional manager in Thunder Bay was going to follow that up with the chief. As soon as we can get answers on a couple of those things and carry out the soil tests, we will be in a position to make a firm decision regarding the right of way east of the reserve.

Mr. Wildman: Supplementary: Is the minister aware that the regional office has indicated that it may be three to four years before completion of negotiations; and if that is the case, is there any way that the minister could clear up the confusion, be-

cause there have been some reports in the Sault Ste. Marie regarding this? What does he foresee that could be done for the people in Macdonald township; that is, could MTC purchase that property immediately?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I have some problem in authorizing the purchase of that property immediately when we do not know whether the proposed alignment that we would be purchasing would line up with the proposed crossing of the river. I don't think we want two roads coming together at a river and not meeting—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I have some difficulty in agreeing to purchase that property immediately. I have assured the chief of the Garden River band that we are agreeing in principle to the proposed routing that the band have suggested. I have asked for this permission to do some adjustments at the east end of the reserve. I have said that at the west end of the reserve I will have to have discussions with the Rankin reserve and with the city of Sault Ste. Marie, which I intend to do. I have also said that we will be prepared to start negotiations immediately for the purchase of the right of way through the reserve.

The hon. member knows as well as I do, I am sure, that we cannot put a time limit on those negotiations. It is somewhat different negotiating with the reserve for the purchase of that right of way than it would be for non-reserve lands, as we would have the power to expropriate after the normal hearings and so on. We do not have that back-up authority on the reserve, so I can't tell the hon. member whether it will be one year, two years or five years to negotiate that and I don't know for sure when I will be able to tell the people of Macdonald, until I know some of those answers or at least have some indication of agreement of the river crossing location.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports

Motions.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

WATERLOO ELECTRICAL SERVICE AREAS ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of Bill 36, An Act to establish Electrical

Service Areas in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: This is the first, Mr. Speaker, of what I expect will be a series of bills to restructure municipal hydro-electric utilities to correspond with municipal boundaries in regional municipalities and restructured counties and to permit the selection of new Hydro commissioners. This bill, and those which will follow, is based upon the report of a local study team guided by the Hogg committee recommendations which were accepted by the government on February 11, 1975. I am providing a compendium with the first of these electrical services area Acts, which includes the Hogg committee report as revised, as well as the report of the Waterloo local study team, with Ontario Hydro's comments and the review of the provincial steering committee on municipal hydro restructuring.

ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS CODE AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. B. Newman moved first reading of Bill 37, An Act to amend The Ontario Human Rights Code.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. B. Newman: The purpose of the bill, Mr. Speaker, is to prevent discrimination on the basis of a physical handicap where the handicap does not interfere with the performance of the services required. I specifically only use the term "physically handicapped" so as not to clutter up the bill at this time and to expedite its acceptance by government.

GUELPH SESQUICENTENNIAL

Mr. Worton: Before the orders of the day and with your permission, Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to bring to the attention of the House the fact that 1977 marks the 150th anniversary of the city of Guelph. Our fair city was actually founded on St. George's Day, April 23, in 1827.

Already this year a number of colourful celebrations have taken place to recognize this important anniversary. One of the most important highlights will take place this coming Saturday, when Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario will participate in commemorative events.

Mr. McIlwraith, chairman of the sesquicentennial committee, has asked me to ex-

tend an invitation to all members of the Legislature to visit Guelph during this anniversary year and to share in our celebrations.

I would like to take this opportunity to present to the Premier, and to the leaders of the opposition parties, a pictorial history of Guelph prepared by Robert Alan Maclean Stewart. I think it most appropriate that Mr. Stewart has chosen blue for the cover of the book.

Mr. Breithaupt: It is a limited edition.

Mr. Bullbrook: They should change the name to Wortonville.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Just before the orders of the day, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the very distinguished member for Wellington South (Mr. Worton), who has made this presentation, to convey my best wishes to the constituents in that municipality. I understand certain celebrations are taking place this Saturday, and perhaps the hon. member would convey my best wishes on that occasion; he needn't go beyond that, because I know he would be reluctant to go beyond that. But certainly I do appreciate his presentation of this pictorial history of that great municipality on this occasion. Knowing something of the history of the city of Guelph, I understand why they selected blue.

Mr. Bullbrook: And why they selected the member for Wellington South.

Mr. Deans: I know that my leader would have wanted to have said some words were he here at the moment but, unfortunately, he's tied up outside of the House. However, Mr. Speaker, on his behalf and on behalf of this caucus, I do want to thank the hon. member for the very fine pictorial history of Guelph and, on behalf of the NDP, to extend the very best wishes of our caucus and the party to the citizens and the council of Guelph, and to wish them many happy years under a different regime, I hope.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: That's whistling in the dark.

Mr. S. Smith: If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my thanks. In particular, I notice that this edition has been signed by the author and has a very fine presentation page. I want to thank the member. I was recently in Guelph and spent a little time in the offices where they're preparing the celebrations, and I think it's going to be one of the finest celebrations, very taste-

fully organized, and one which I'm looking forward to attending more than once.

I should note in passing how well served the people of Guelph have been for the past 22 years and will be, I trust, for many more years to come.

[3:30]

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch: Before the orders of the day, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answers to questions 22, 23 and 24 standing on the order paper. (See appendix page 573.)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville had the floor when we last rose on this matter. He may continue with his remarks.

Mr. B. Newman: It's a real honour for me to have the opportunity once again to take part in the Throne debate and to bring to the attention of members present and the members of the cabinet some of the problems and some of the areas in which my own community, as well as the province of Ontario, could stand some improving.

One of the things that does concern me substantially is the fact of communication. Today, with the price of a stamp being 12 cents and people hesitating to come along and communicate with their member, especially writing to Queen's Park and using a 12-cent stamp, it being quite a price to pay for a letter, I thought it would be significant if the province of Ontario would implement the use of a one-cent stamp whose sole use would be for the communication between a constituent and the member in the Legislature.

Federally, no stamps are required to be placed on letters when they are addressed to a member in the federal Parliament while the House is in session. I think a constituent should have exactly that same privilege on the provincial level; but rather than give it to him free I would charge him that one cent so that we could at the same time ask

Ottawa to co-operate with us and use one-cent stamps with pictures of previous Premiers of the province. In that way, we could also pictorially familiarize our students, as well as our elderly people, with the historical significance and the contribution many Premiers have made in previous days. The idea of the one-cent stamp is a fairly good idea. I would hope the government would look into it, and if possible implement it as quickly as possible.

The first item of real concern is the item of unemployment. I sent out a questionnaire in my riding in which I asked the following question: "Which of the two problems do you consider the more serious, unemployment or inflation?" I anticipated the answer because there are more people employed than there are unemployed; so the individual who is employed naturally is going to say inflation is the more serious, he has a job. However, those who considered unemployment extremely serious amounted to one-third or 32.9 per cent of the respondents. It is extremely important, and it does disappoint me that the Throne Speech did not include some concrete proposals for the remedying of the problem.

In Windsor and Essex county, excluding the towns of Leamington and Kingsville, the statistics for the unemployed, and the unemployment index as one would say, has risen and fallen in the last three months. It started with 8.69 per cent, went down to 8.53 in February and then in March went up to 8.65 per cent. This is based on a work force of 129,717.

The unemployed were in two categories, and included 5,602 men and 6,166 women. The significance of that is the fact that approximately the same number of men and women are unemployed. It disturbs me that we do not have the concern among the citizenry that we should have when we have such high levels of unemployment, but I would assume the concern isn't as great as it should be because of the following facts:

In 1961, 46 per cent of the unemployed were heads of families. In 1974, the 46 per cent dropped down to 33 per cent; and just last month, in the month of February, it was only 30.3 per cent. So that you can see that less than one out of three of the unemployed are heads of families. Were they all heads of families then I would assume—and probably rightly so—that the concern would have been substantially greater.

Increase of unemployment, Mr. Speaker, is the result not of layoffs, but of the economy not producing enough new jobs for would-be

new entrants into the labour force, be they graduating students or spouses of persons who are already employed.

When people are involuntarily cut from the job market, they lose their self-esteem, or it substantially diminishes. The sense of alienation from society increases, and at a certain point they simply stop trying, stop creating; and it creates in them a lasting pattern of non-productivity and dependence. The economics and cost of rampant unemployment go far beyond the value of Unemployment Insurance Commission payouts.

It is said that a Canadian worker produces approximately \$19,000 worth of goods and services in the course of a year. So if we assume at the present moment that we have one million unemployed you can see the tremendous cost, a cost of approximately \$19 billion in loss of gross national product.

Mr. Speaker, I would like, at this point, to present a plan that the state of Massachusetts is using in an attempt to—not remedy but lessen the index of unemployment. I don't say that we should copy what another jurisdiction uses, but I think we should look at them, and if they're applicable to ourselves, adopt the better points and improve on the weaker points.

In Massachusetts they are setting up non-profit corporations in such fields as building renovation, lead paint removal, energy saving by insulating old housing, harvesting of state forests, provision of day-care facilities to free welfare mothers for productive jobs and rehabilitating old railroad lines. I think what Massachusetts is attempting to do should be looked at, and if applicable let's try to improve upon it.

Mr. Speaker, there are other ways in which employment could be provided. I would assume that government should and would always consider public works projects to be programmed in periods of high unemployment, rather than in periods of boom. There is a need for substantial amounts of housing throughout the province. There are lots of unserviced properties, unserviced lands, and I think we should go into the servicing of land at the present moment so that we can at least alleviate unemployment to a small degree and at the same time have lands available for housing development. I think we should go into the production of substantial numbers of homes—especially for low income and fixed income individuals.

Even in my own community, government has finally built a provincial public building in 1977. I can recall the first time I ran,

in 1959, it was promised; it's taken 18 years to do that.

Mr. Kerrio: That's not bad for the Tories, Bernie.

Mr. Mancini: That's not bad, that's a good accomplishment.

Mr. B. Newman: I would think there are other things that they could do.

Mr. Cunningham: Bernie, are there only three of them over there now?

Mr. Samis: Where have all the Tories gone?

Mr. B. Newman: I imagine the cream of the crop is here.

Mr. Ruston: All three of them.

Mr. Eakins: John, you listen.

Mr. B. Newman: I am very disappointed that the junior ranger programmes, a programme which I heartily endorse, has not been expanded in the last several years. There are substantial numbers of our students who could use this as summertime employment. From what I understand there are only going to be 1,600 taken on force this year, whereas we should be multiplying that number substantially. I would think that is one area in which government could have stepped out and done something. Youth unemployment is extremely grave, and we are certainly anticipating the budget coming down tomorrow with some substantial programmes that would alleviate that problem.

I did mention the use of housing. I specifically mention housing because of the continuing need for senior citizens' housing in the city of Windsor. We have received substantial amounts of housing in the past. But when you see waiting lists running into approximately 400—and they have been running at the 400 scale for a fairly long period of time—it means that we are not providing an opportunity for those who have helped make our country to live in some decent type of accommodation. I am referring in this instance to the senior citizen accommodation, the geared-to-income accommodation. I know that not all senior citizens would prefer to live in that type of accommodation; they would prefer to remain exactly where they are at the present. But because of age catching up with them, and their not being able to take care of their premises, they sometimes have no choice but to move into rental accommodation.

I can recall in 1960 making mention to the government that they should adopt a baby bonus in reverse. In other words, pay to the son and/or daughter or relative of an aged or a senior couple some specific amount of money per month for the senior couple's keep rather than have the government provide accommodation for them in some type of housing project. I hope the government will still consider that, but I would also like to see sufficient senior citizen accommodation built in my community to take care of the needs of the 397 senior citizens who need accommodation today. Of the 397, 319—or 80 per cent of them—require bachelor or would prefer bachelor accommodation. So you can see, one way government can assist in alleviating unemployment is by going back into housing; and the housing that I am mentioning at this moment is senior citizen housing.

When the senior citizen lives in government geared-to-income housing, his rental generally includes his energy bill. So we have subsidized that senior citizen by providing him with geared-to-income housing; we do not recover sufficient from the rental to pay for the cost of running the accommodation; and I think we should continue to subsidize him.

But I am looking at the other senior citizen who lives in his own accommodation and who has substantial fuel bills. The fuel bills are sometimes more per month than the accommodation. I think that the government should follow some of the schemes that are used in the United States, that is by providing an energy supplement, X amount of dollars if the income of the individual goes below a set level. In other words, if it were below the poverty line, I think there should be some income supplement to that individual. Remember that individual is taking care of his own accommodation. He is paying taxes, including education taxes which he strongly objects to because his children have grown up and gone. But he also has to pay the substantial increases in energy costs. He is not being subsidized at all.

[3:45]

We have to treat both alike. Since we provide a subsidy through geared-to-income accommodation, taking care of the person's energy costs, we should look at the other senior citizen living in his own accommodation. If his income is below that given level that I made mention of, then we should provide him with assistance on an ongoing basis. I hope the Ministry of Community and Social Services does look into that aspect, that is to

provide an energy supplement to people who are on fixed incomes, people on social services benefits and people on other categories of assistance programmes.

I take advantage of the opportunity of doing a lot of house-calling. When constituents have problems and can't come to me, I go to visit them. As a result, I get into a lot of senior citizens' accommodations. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is extremely heart-rending when you knock on the door of a senior citizen and you find that no one has come around to see him. He can't shop; he can do practically nothing; he is extremely handicapped.

I think that we've got to—and we can—develop a social worker of a type who would, like a paper boy, have a route. Just as a paper boy would go around delivering papers to various customers, this social worker could likewise have a route of seniors he would visit on a sort of a regular basis. This would not be with the intent of prying because we know that senior citizens are strong individuals who believe in their own rights and don't want others looking into their own personal business, but this would be simply out of concern for the health and safety of that senior citizen.

One of the members of the planning board in the community, the board that has recommended the development of senior citizens' housing, made a suggestion I think does merit attention, that is a two-colour card so that each day as the senior citizen would get up he would turn a knob which would flash the card. In other words, on even days the red portion of the card should be visible. Anyone going down that hall would know that the man is up or the lady is up and everything is well with them. If the card has not been changed in colour, then they know there may be something wrong on the inside and could attempt to overcome the problem either by personally visiting or via a telephone call.

It's a real concern, these senior citizens who don't have anyone to look after them. Even though in many of the high-rise projects they do have a buddy system built in and do have individuals on various floors who are responsible for checking inhabitants of the residences of that floor, there still has to be some standard method developed by government so that by walking down the aisle we could know that the senior citizen is there and everything is well. You will say that if the thing hadn't been turned it's an invitation for someone to break in. The management of the apartment certainly could

take care of that, or the senior citizen could have a neighbour take care of it in case he is not going to be there for the time.

The other topic I wanted to touch on was the high cost of energy and how it affects many in our society today. The city of Windsor presented a very good brief to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and asked for its endorsement. They go into the whole cost of energy and show how the city of Windsor over the period of one year has had its energy costs increased to the extent of \$1.4 million. In other words, the increase in energy cost from 1975 to 1976 meant that great additional burden on the taxpayers. And that, as we know, is always reflected in substantial property taxes.

I think there has to be some resolution to the increasingly high costs of energy. It doesn't disturb me so much for those who can afford it but there are many in our society who cannot afford the extremely high costs in energy. Time and time again everyone in the House gets complaints from citizens of all age levels concerning these high costs.

One of the areas in which it does disturb me is the fact that Union Gas in my own community have gone on a basis of reading the meter every second month. There is nothing wrong with that theoretically, the only thing is it just doesn't work. Because if you've had a very cold month, Mr. Speaker, and you've turned your thermostat up, you will not find out for two months actually how much energy you have consumed. You would have maybe turned the thermostat down a bit had you known you were using more energy than you normally used.

With the added cost of energy and the added use of energy by the individual, the bill becomes astronomical. Then how does the citizen pay for it? Those on a fixed income—even those not on a fixed income; those who are in lower wage categories—have an extremely hard time paying some of these energy bills. The responsible ministry in government here should see that gas meters especially are read on a monthly basis and not every second month, so that the consumer of the gas can help save gas and at the same time save dollars.

Some governments use the stamp idea. Just as you have food stamps, they have energy stamps, where the individual on a welfare programme or below a set level of income receives energy stamps. He would buy \$100 worth of stamps for maybe \$50 or \$25. They're solely for his use, they're non-trans-

ferable and he can use them in an attempt to pay off his energy bills. It does sound like a good idea. There may be some difficulties with it, but I would think the government, in co-operation with the energy industry, could find a resolution to that difficulty.

Two years ago and again this year I introduced An Act to amend The Public Utilities Act. The purpose for its introduction was to set up uniform procedures for the terminating of services, be the services water, hydro, gas, oil, propane or telephone. The reason I introduced that bill, Mr. Speaker, is because at times the utilities companies in my estimation don't use good reason in dealing with their public. I don't for one minute try to defend those who are chiselling and so forth, but there are so many who cannot meet a high energy bill on a monthly basis. They could meet the bill stretched over a period of time, but they couldn't be paying the \$150 and \$200 a month when they are only getting the one cheque every month. What do you use for sustenance after you've paid a substantial amount for energy?

The need for the amendment that I have suggested has been underlined here in Toronto in the case of a Mrs. McNeil of North York, a diabetic with high blood pressure, whose electricity was turned off because she was \$34.10 behind in her hydro payments. My bill would set up a review board consisting of not fewer than three people appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, who would come along and take into consideration the increased cost of energy and arrive at some accommodation to the individual in the paying off of any bills.

Some jurisdictions look at this quite favourably—for example in some of the states. In Maryland they have a customer's bill of rights that will overlook two delinquent payments and will forgive one overdue payment bill per year. They don't cut off the utility immediately. New York has a 15-day notice of intent before you can terminate service. New York will not allow them to terminate the service on weekends, holidays or the day before holidays, and the company must notify the welfare officials before they shut off any one of the utilities.

In Michigan, utilities are required to give customers 21 days in which to pay bills and eliminate late payment charges. They've abandoned the practice of requiring deposits unless a customer has earned a bad credit record. The established procedure is to give customers the right of a hearing before service is cut off, and to continue service if a customer agrees to pay bills in instalments

when he finds himself in a financial bind. They also have grievance procedures to ensure quick and courteous resolution of complaints and questions, and publish a book outlining in simple language the customer's rights and responsibilities.

I hope the government would look into that a little more seriously than did the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. McKeough), because I think something has to be done for these many people.

One of the other topics I wanted to make slight mention of is Hydro. We would think that a big organization like that could have planned well in advance. Remember how they were selling all-electric homes? They sold them on the idea that they were going to get preferred rates. Many people built homes like that. All of a sudden they find it's more expensive than other forms of energy, they no longer get the preferred rates, but because they are burning more, they pay a lot more. So government was lax in not fulfilling its responsibility when it was selling electric homes. I happen to have a letter from a constituent who makes mention of all of this and is very much disturbed. To convert to another form of energy would be extremely costly for her.

I think I have seven or eight minutes left and I would like to bring other small topics to the attention of the government. One is a resolution passed by the city of Windsor—which I understand asked for support of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario—that requests that the Ontario government turn over to municipalities on a per capita basis 50 per cent of Wintario revenue in the form of unconditional grants. This would help municipalities develop the projects they wish—allowing them to spend that money in the fashion they wish—by providing them with unconditional grants, the moneys coming out of Wintario funds.

I hope the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr) will join with the utilities commission in the city of Windsor in suing the polluters from the United States, whose pollution is costing the utilities approximately \$96,000 a year in cleaning the insulators on high-tension wires—insulators shorted out because of pollutants coming across the river from Detroit.

I hope the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) would reconsider any decision she has made and have the committee that was looking into workers' health and safety hold meetings in the city of Windsor, so that representation can be made by interested

employers and employees concerning that legislation. The chamber of commerce and other interested parties—including the unions—have all expressed concern that Windsor has been bypassed, yet Windsor is third in overall production in the province of Ontario and fifth in Canada. Surely a city that contributes that amount to the economy of the province and the country should be given consideration when hearings are held concerning legislation that is that important.

[4:00]

Another item that is of concern, and has been shown to be of concern to many, is the new system of coded pricing. I would hope the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) would pass legislation that would insist every item that is for sale has an actual price on it and not a coded price. This way, at least one can comparison-shop. The shopper will know that what she is buying is costing, say, 46 cents as opposed to another article costing 48 cents. She would not be able to comparison-shop using the coding only. The only time she would find out the price was when she was checking the cash register tape or watching the code being put through the scanner and the price being put up on the cash register. Legislation has to come in on that. I have a recommendation from the United Church of Canada, the London conference, suggesting that that be implemented by government.

I would also ask the Minister of the Environment to keep a very close look and monitor what the US government is doing in relation to the disposing of atomic wastes, since it wishes to dispose of them in the salt beds in the state of Michigan. The state has no opportunity to veto anything that may be done by the federal government and, as a result, we don't know whether they're going to bury their atomic wastes in the city of Detroit or not. Burying them there, with us on the same salt bed area, could have some extremely harmful effects. I know the city of Detroit is as concerned as we, but I think the minister has an obligation to monitor all of that so that at least we can assume the citizens in the city of Windsor are going to be safe because he is going to take care of them.

I would like the Minister of Labour, while she is here, to look into the situation of CKLW and the strike that is going on there. I think she should have her officials look into it and see whether it can't be resolved.

One of the final items I do want to raise is the one concerning the utter disregard of the interests of the citizen by the Canadian Pacific Railway. Back in 1975 I mentioned in the House, and I spoke at some length, how Canadian Pacific, simply because it owned and had a right-of-way in the city that was wide enough to triple-track, had the idea it could triple-track and do as it pleased with its property. Environment has nothing to do with them. They have the money and they can do as they please.

The citizens in the Remington Park and Walkerville area fought tooth and nail against them showing how the Canadian Pacific did not consult with the residents. These are nicely built-up areas, with one that is going to be built up fairly shortly. The railway did not consult with the citizens, but just put up two additional tracks and then used the tracks for storage areas. In some instances, some of the cars that were stored there were refrigerated and they would have the motors providing refrigeration to these cars running at all hours of the day and night. Imagine, Mr. Speaker, living within 200 or 300 feet of that, with the fumes from the gasoline or diesel motors or whatever they used, the noise, and all of the pollution involved.

Let me tell the House that the citizens were not going to accept the CPR telling them what to do. As a result, the citizens have strongly objected. The CPR was prevented from using the tracks that it did develop in there. After a while, the CPR decided that it had the money and it would keep pressing the people. It attempted to get permission to use the trackage once again. The residents of the area made strong presentations to the commission—

Mr. Makarchuk: On a point of order.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Your point of order?

Mr. Makarchuk: Yes, Mr. Speaker. There has been a previous arrangement among the House leaders that the member for Windsor-Walkerville would terminate his speech at five minutes after four. In other words, he would have 35 minutes. He started at 3:30 and he's still continuing. I'm just wondering if he would be brought to order.

Mr. B. Newman: If I did, I apologize. I don't think I did. I thought I had started at 25 to the hour and it is five minutes after the hour. I was told I had 36 minutes in which to speak and I'm trying my darnedest to complete it within the 36 minutes. If the member doesn't mind, I will take another five minutes. If he wants, I'll complete my re-

marks right now. But I'm not intentionally trying to take up any time at all.

To continue on the subject of the CPR hearings, the citizens did have a hearing before the Canadian Transport Commission in the city of Windsor and, at the last meeting, were successful in preventing CPR from using this triple-track—the two additional sidings or the Powell siding, as it is known.

I know this isn't the end of the story, because CPR has the money and can carry on and on and harass the people to no end. But the citizenry in the area will not accept that; they will continue the fight. Just as they have to obey rules and regulations—they can't do with their property what they wish—CPR should not be allowed to come along and do what it wishes with its property, regardless of what it wishes to do, without consultation with the people.

I had intended to go on to discuss the recent meeting of the Windsor and Essex county health council and the presentation they made to the citizens of Windsor concerning the rationalization of health services. What I have to say on that is fairly lengthy, so I will not talk about it now. I will try to save my remarks until we have the estimates of the Ministry of Health—if we ever do have them.

At this time I will simply mention that one of the things they wish to do is phase out Riverview Hospital immediately. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, that will not be accepted by the community. They will let the government build a new chronic care hospital, as it had promised, or take over one facility that will be solely for chronic care, but not phase out a hospital that is providing the type of service that is satisfactory to the community and is praised to no end by both the patients and the families.

Thank you very much for your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, and to the member who made a comment concerning the length of my remarks—if I am over at this time—I apologize.

Mr. Moffatt: I gather, Mr. Speaker, that a number of comments have been made about a number of things which probably are unrelated to the contents of Her Honour's Speech from the Throne. In the 20 minutes allowed to me I am going to try to make some comments specifically about some of the things that were in the Speech from the Throne and some things that I think should have been in and were not.

Over the past several years it has been the role of the opposition parties, no matter which one was the official opposition, to

criticize the government sharply and severely for its management or mismanagement of the resources of this province, both in physical and human terms. There have been numerous criticisms, significantly borne out by subsequent public inquiries, select committees and reports of various kinds, which prove that to some extent—and in other cases to a great extent—the forest resources, the mineral resources, the natural resources of our waters and air, have not been managed properly by the government and there have been moves at subsequent dates to make some kinds of correction. The previous speaker mentioned the problem of suing polluters and so on, which bears testimony to this kind of mismanagement that was allowed to go on.

The mismanagement of human resources has been a subject that has been dealt with by a great many people and from time to time we have had some government action in areas which were criticized. The whole business of schools and our education system was criticized—in some areas properly and in some areas quite improperly—and I notice there have been changes rumoured at least; nothing really tangible has emerged at this point. Those kinds of resource management ideals have been ones for which the government has been criticized and on which it has acted subsequently to some extent.

The Minister of Labour has been criticized sharply at various times for the Workmen's Compensation Board, and responses have been forthcoming—not always as quickly as we would wish, but there have been some responses and more obviously will take place as ensuing events take their toll of government members and of people who are the victims of the Workmen's Compensation Board.

In all of the discussion of the management of all those resources, it has always been a sort of Tory boast in Ontario that the finances of the province were, in fact, managed well. They have always prided themselves on that. The Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) debated for years with the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) the credit rating of this province as opposed to somebody else's credit rating, and there was great argument about triple-A or double-A and what all of those things meant.

Over the past year and a half to two years I think a lot of people in this province, myself included, have come to the conclusion that we have all been misled, because the management of the resources of this province have been most seriously handicapped by the mismanagement of the finances of this province by the present government. That prevents us

from correcting those problems in other resource areas.

I heard a speaker the other night talk about the problems of mental health in Canada. This person said the most serious mental health problem in Canada right now is unemployment. That's a pretty significant statement, if one thinks about it. What that means is that all of these problems associated with what have been referred to as social causes really go back to mismanagement of our economy which has led to so many unemployed people. It is time that somebody at least started to talk seriously about how our economy might be more properly managed.

In the Throne Speech, the reference to employment and job creation really does nothing to present specific solutions to those areas which all persons now recognize as being significant. The one area in which jobs are kind of mentioned and hinted at is in a commitment by the government to the proliferation of nuclear generating stations in this province. I think it's time we started to look carefully at what is really going on. I have a copy of *Short Circuit*, a publication by Ontario Hydro, dated April 1. In this publication there's a brief quote I wanted to make. It's a copy of a story from the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record* of March 24, 1977, quoting the director of design and development for Ontario Hydro, Mr. W. G. Morison, as saying that in the next 20 years Hydro employment opportunities will quadruple. He makes the point that 120,000 workers will be employed in nuclear power plants. He says: "In these days of unemployment it is encouraging to project a potential growth in industries utilizing high technology and highly skilled personnel."

I wonder what that person is talking about. He is a highly placed person in Ontario Hydro and he's misleading the workers of this province. What he is saying is that a number of people are going to have jobs that last for three or four or five or 10 years in a short-term basis in constructing nuclear plants and then they move from plant to plant to plant. They aren't new jobs, they aren't different people, they're the same people working in a number of jobs. He comes up with that 120,000 figure.

We did some work on this and found that Ontario Hydro's own record show that to create one permanent job in Ontario Hydro requires between \$600,000 and \$800,000 capital. The ordinary resource industries of this province require in the neighbourhood of \$200,000 capital expenditure to create one permanent job. I wonder what is going on.

What does he mean when he says we're going to quadruple the employment? We're not going to at all. All that's happening is that people are being told that jobs are going to be created in nuclear plants, but what they're not being told is that those are short-term jobs leading to further unemployment down the road. The only people employed in nuclear plants when they're finally in operation are a very small staff of highly trained technicians.

It seems to me the kind of expenditure that would be required, if you work it out, Mr. Speaker, to create 120,000 jobs at about, say, \$600,000 per job in capital expenditure, means we're going to have to spend \$84 billion, if Hydro's past record is any indication. That's utterly stupid. We don't have the capital resources to do that. It seems to me that what we need to do very seriously is, first of all, to look for some alternate ways of creating energy in this province. There are a number of ways in which energy can be created that the government apparently doesn't seem to be interested in.

[4:15]

The first thing I think we can do to create energy is, number one, to save the energy, or some portion of it, that we are presently wasting. It makes no sense at all, as far as I am concerned, to boost the number of Btu of energy that we produce when we could in fact save that which we already have by a proper insulation programme.

If the government is serious about the energy shortage, as outlined in this report by the Minister of Energy (Mr. Taylor) last Friday—which says nothing about what is going to be done: it simply says we'll run out of oil and gas in 2025, and in the meantime we are going to use nuclear power. Well, that really doesn't answer that problem, because what happens when we run out of that?

What I think we need to do is, first of all, set new building guides which will give much stiffer insulation standards for not only residential but commercial and industrial buildings as well. We need to create a major alternative to some of the oil and gas which we are presently using in our transportation industries. One of the ways in which that might be done is by the production of methane and methanol.

There are two ways in which methanol can be produced in significant quantities. One of those ways is by the whole-tree farming method; the other way is by using the waste from present pulp mills, which only use 50

per cent of the tree which is cut anyway—50 per cent is left either in chips or in the bush or in branches, the other 50 per cent is used in the pulp. You can check that, if you'd like, Mr. Speaker, and from your riding I think that you might find that if you consider the total cut by the pulp companies today, in the end result we only get 50 per cent of the volume out in the pulp. The rest is wasted.

What we might better do, it seems to me, is first of all, approach the problem of using all of the trees we cut. If we're going to cut them for pulp, we might as well use all of the trees that we presently cut.

It seems to me there are two areas where we would suggest a programme. We might suggest the Kimberly-Clark mill at Kapuskasing, under Spruce Falls Power and Paper, which uses 940 tons a day of ground wood. It would generate 620 tons per day of useless surplus now. What we would say is that 430 tons a day of that chemical pulp capacity would generate 516 tons of usable surplus; we would turn that into methanol with the co-operation of that company, if they wished to do it. If they don't wish to do it, then the government should do it for them. That should be done. It's a product that can be produced by small public investment, and it's a labour-intensive industry. The number of jobs which can be produced is immense, compared to the number of jobs produced in that highly capitalized nuclear field.

If we went to Espanola, there are 660 tons per day of chemical pulp capacity, which generates 790 tons of usable surplus. That 790 tons could be turned into methane, which would produce 20 million to 25 million gallons per year. This could result from this method of harvesting the whole tree. I won't go into details, Mr. Speaker, because I know you know full tree harvesting as opposed to what is presently being done. Those plants would be small, but those plants would also be pilot projects which would demonstrate the viability of a methanol industry.

A plant based on a tree farm could be used in eastern Ontario, an area which really does have high unemployment. If we go to the Cornwall area, or anywhere approaching the Ottawa Valley, there are areas of farm land which cannot be used for food production at this time. Those areas of the province where the soil is not being used for food production should be at this point reforested. We can't sit around and wait until there's an oil shortage; we should be planning ahead for this.

It seems the Ministry of Natural Resources has achieved wood production rates of 320 cubic foot per acre per year—13 times the present growth rate in Ontario's producing areas. They are using a poplar-based crop. A plant large enough to supply roughly one per cent of the 1985 gasoline and diesel needs of this province on an energy basis would require a 320-square-mile tree farm. But that would be a producing farm; it wouldn't leave the area denuded; it wouldn't desecrate the whole area; it would be a use of that part of the province that is not being made use of now. That's the kind of thinking this government should have gone towards in its Throne Speech.

A third area where methanol can be produced is in the waste disposal area in the region of Durham where right now the council is contemplating the expenditure of \$14 million to build a sanitary landfill site. That's an absolutely ludicrous thing to be happening in this day and age, when that landfill, the material that goes into it—the garbage, if you wish—from the region of Durham and the suburbs of Toronto, is in fact a resource which can be turned into usable energy, either in a "watts from waste" programme, as is being experimented with in Etobicoke, or in the production of methanol which can be used in the transportation industries and, indeed, can power some of those high-priced cars we were hearing about this afternoon.

The problem of making this kind of statement to this government is that they really can't adjust their thinking to the idea that going into that sort of long-range investment on behalf of the future of this province is really sensible. There's no point in talking to some of the ministers about making an investment of public funds because they say, "That's socialism." That may well be socialism—it also happens to make sense. The technology exists for these methanol projects that I've been talking about briefly, because of the time constraints. It can be done. But if we wait for the private sector, as we have been doing, it's not going to be done, because the private sector is waiting for us to run out of oil and gasoline, and then when it gets down to the point where there's none left, it'll be very, very important for Shell and Exxon and the rest of the multi-nationals to move into the methanol business. All of a sudden we'll be forced to go in to some kind of import process for methanol.

This province cannot depend on energy supplies from foreign nations. It can't really depend on energy supplies from outside this

province. We need to become as self-sufficient as is humanly possible, and at the same time we need to invest our capital very wisely in projects that are not only going to guarantee the energy of this province, but are, to some extent, also going to guarantee jobs to the workers of this province.

I just don't know what one can do with the energy minister's statement of last Friday in which he documents 20 problems and no solutions—other than that the consumer will have to pay more. Well, I think the consumer may well wind up paying more, but the consumer will not wind up paying more because he wishes to or because that's going to solve the energy crisis. He will wind up paying more because this government has refused to act in an area where, in fact, it can act.

If we don't begin now to reforest and revegetate every single acre of land, not presently being used for food production, we're going to wind up as the television programme the other night said—freezing in the dark. It's an investment in Ontario's future. It's time we began.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, you will realize that I am following my colleague from Durham East because the NDP has some time still coming to it in this debate. It could, perhaps, be considered that we talk less than the other parties, but I think the correct interpretation would be that we say more in less time.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Neither is true.

Mr. Swart: There are a number of items I would like to cover—

Mr. Ferris: How many—three, two?

Mr. Swart: —in the time allotted to me, I'd certainly like to speak on the subject of unemployment, because the latest figures show that of the 18 regions in this province, the Niagara region has the third highest rate of unemployment. I'd also like to deal with the matter of the severe storm which we had in the peninsula at the end of January, and the inadequate assistance that the Ontario government has provided to the municipalities for dealing with that situation. But because we're coming to the end of the Throne Speech debate and are short of time and because I am greatly concerned about municipal affairs, I want to spend the time that I have dealing primarily with the matter of the Blair commission report, more commonly known in this province as property tax reform.

It is significant to point out that in the 50 or 60 items dealt with in the Throne Speech there was no mention made of tax reform. I suggest that is significant because the government of this province has apparently abandoned any attempt to reform this property tax system. I suggest that the proposals which it had before it—

Mr. Cunningham: It needs six or seven more studies before it will do anything. You need 25 more seats.

Mr. Swart: —and the proposals of the Blair commission, do not in fact constitute any real reform.

I think the people of this province, though, now have the right to ask the government what it is going to do with the 15 proposals it had in last year's budget, entitled Reform of Property Taxation in Ontario, and the Blair commission report on those proposals.

It is interesting to recall the Treasurer's (Mr. McKeough's) statement last year. He said: "The commission will be asked to report to the government by the fall of 1976 so that legislation can be prepared for the spring of 1977." I go on to quote: "Assessment notices for 1978 taxation will be sent to property taxpayers in the early summer of 1977." End of quote of the Treasurer last year.

Let me provide some further background to this 1976 statement, Mr. Speaker. Since the provincial government took over the assessment function in 1970 it has repeatedly stated its intent to introduce market value assessment. The government has said that it is "essential" to do so. The Treasurer described the present system as "so unfair as to be rotten." The member for York East (Mr. Meen) as Minister of Revenue, speaking to the Golden Mile Kiwanis Club, October 20, 1976, on the subject of why we need market value assessment said: "Of course, with the introduction of market value assessment all the inequities will be ironed out."

Those are the same kind of statements as have been made for at least eighty years but nothing ever happens. Mr. Allan Grossman, the then Minister of Revenue, said in 1973: "When the government assumed the assessment responsibility in 1970 the objective was to reassess all properties at their market value. The reassessment work has now been completed"—in 1973.

Taxes were to be paid on the market value assessment in 1975, but it wasn't ready so it was postponed when the same minister said that as the new data would be available by the fall of the next year, the government's

tax reform programme could be finalized by early 1976. But, of course, in 1976 it has been postponed again.

It would be interesting to know the cost to this government of the proposed reassessment programme over the years—what they have done to this date. The present Treasurer in 1969 estimated the number of assessors would be increased by 50 per cent to “bring assessment to what we consider the proper level and maintain it.” As municipalities then were spending \$15 million when he took it over, it is not unrealistic to say that the extra cost over the eight years is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$50 million to \$100 million on the property tax reassessment—and nothing has happened.

So far making these kinds of statements, and showing the tremendous need for market value assessment, the absolute fairness of it after spending tens of million dollars on reassessment, after last year's budget statement, after year by year postponements since 1973, and after the \$500,000 report of the Blair commission, the Treasurer now states that the whole thing is being postponed for an indefinite period.

Mr. Davidson: For another study.

Mr. Swart: I suggest that that kind of handling of the assessment programme has to match or even exceed this Tory government's general mismanagement of the province's business as mentioned by my colleague from Durham East.

[4:30]

On November 12, 1969, the then leader of our party, the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald), when debating a market value assessment bill, said: “We therefore recommend that the implementation of these recommendations”—provincial market value assessment—“be delayed until thorough statistical analysis has been made on their effect.” That was in 1969. That is almost eight years ago. But when the Treasurer made his proposals a year ago to this House that statistical analysis had not been done. For instance, he didn't know what the cost would be to the province of paying all farm land taxes. It was in August of last year before the report on that matter was made to him. That sort of thing simply verified that budget paper E, the 15 tax reform proposals, was hastily thrown together for political purposes and was not the product of long-term and extensive analysis.

I say to the government that its credibility and its sincerity among municipal people on this issue finally have been de-

stroyed by its latest manoeuvre. Its assessment staff is appalled at its actions and their morale is at an all-time low. I know this to be the case. Both groups are disgusted because they know the government is simply stalling until after the next election and if it gets its majority it will shove it down the people's throat.

The government wants to de-emphasize it now and to not even talk about it over there. Since the Blair report was brought down six weeks ago government members haven't even talked about a programme of further input for all of the concerned groups.

When the government introduced the proposals a year ago it dressed them up in a very attractive political package. Niagara was used as an example to portray a reduction in residential taxes of 24 per cent, of commercial and industrial of 20 per cent and the elimination of all taxes on farm land.

But it didn't sell. People were sceptical. They asked if all these reductions were going to be made, where was the additional money going to come from? They finally found out that it was supposed to come from the Ontario government. Then they rightly asked if the Ontario government was going to pay all those additional taxes, was it going to keep up its level of grants and subsidies to the municipalities? On May 20, 1976, the Treasurer refused to give that commitment to me when I asked him here in the House. Then on May 26 he told the PMLC that in the first year at least he wouldn't keep up the level of the Edmonton commitment.

So the projected saving that they had in their proposals really became all meaningless. The charitable and the non-profit organizations strenuously objected to the proposals to load them with taxes and the farmers didn't join in a chorus of applause, as the Treasurer had expected, for the removal of land taxes. Small business too was rightly up in arms. In short, the attractive political package has turned sour and the Blair commission couldn't rescue it.

So what the government wants to do now is quietly let it rest and maybe die until after the next provincial election. And after all, it has covered its tracks pretty well. It has widely circulated reports that residential taxation will decrease and implied other benefits. When groups or individuals raise the unpopular and unfair recommendations it simply says those are only recommendations—not policy. The Treasurer put it, I think, in a classic form in his release on the day Blair reported. He said: “I emphasize that the government has not accept-

ed, rejected or modified any part of the Blair report recommendations." That's about as indefinite as you can possibly be.

I say to the government it may think it is good politics to do this postponement, but it is not good government. It has an obligation to face up to its own recommendations and to the Blair report and to tell the people of this province what it intends to do and what its views are now on this issue.

What about the injustices which government members so frequently spoke about, such as the great over-assessment of apartments and the resultant excess tax being extracted from the tenants? Is it going to bring in an interim amending legislation to relieve that injustice? The people of Ontario do deserve a response from the government on this issue. And that response should deal with the major faults in its original 15 proposals and some that have been added by the Blair commission in their report.

I briefly want to mention some of them here. I want to say that farm land taxation as the government proposed and Blair amended, is unfair and unacceptable. The government should really heed what the farmers and their organizations have told it. They don't want a lien on their property of thousands of dollars an acre. They want their land to be assessed at agricultural value so their taxes are, in fact, related to their ability to produce and they're quite happy to carry on paying 50 per cent of the land assessment.

If the government followed the suggestions of the farmers and the farm organizations it would save the Treasury something like \$150 million or \$135 million, whether it follows its own recommendations or those of the Blair commission. What's so unjust about this is that a large part of that \$150 million or \$135 million will go to the developers, and I say they should pay their own taxes. Once land is bought by developers it should be assessed and should be taxed at full market value. Why should the people of this province kick in \$50 million to \$75 million annually, perhaps more, to pay for the taxes of developers?

I want to mention also the exemption on charitable non-profit organizations. It's our view in this party that non-profit and charitable organizations ought not to be burdened by property tax and there should be uniform exemptions. The government's proposal No. 7 would tax them at their full value; Blair would leave the decision up to unworkable committees at the local level. Even then they wouldn't allow them to continue exemp-

tions, there would be no exemption permitted for Legions or corps or other veteran's organizations.

I say the local committees would simply not work fairly because, first of all, the ones that get it would be the ones that had the political clout, there is overlapping of jurisdictions, which makes it very difficult for municipalities to provide exemptions, and thirdly, the grant system proposed by the Blair commission would deter municipalities from giving the tax exemptions. The government proposes that not only would the municipality lose those taxes, but the grants and subsidies that would be given by the province would be given the municipalities as if they collected those taxes, and therefore they would lose the taxes plus a fairly substantial amount of subsidy as well.

I think the government should have the courage to determine those organizations that should have exemption. I suggest it would not be too difficult. It's done now by the federal government for income tax purposes and it can be done for assessment. Preferably the government should pay the taxes to the municipalities on those properties where exemptions are given.

I don't know how much it would cost. Here in Toronto, the United Way estimated that its organizations would have to pay something like \$2 million if they lost their exemptions. That's out of United Way receipts of about \$15 million, and that's a fairly substantial sum. Multiply that across the province. I don't know what the government would have to pay—\$10 million or \$40 million—but I want to say that it wouldn't be as much as the taxes the government proposes to pay for the developers. It wouldn't reach that level.

Mr. Warner: They put the developers before the Children's Aid Societies.

Mr. Swart: The government has a responsibility to see that these non-profit volunteer organizations do remain viable. It knows the volunteer sector's concern—of course, that's one reason it has not decided not to proceed with the proposals at this time. I have here with me—and I wonder if I could leave it with the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. MacBeth) if I may, because they're aren't many other members of the cabinet present—a petition from the YMCA in the city of Welland, signed by 260 people in the city of Welland, expressing their concern about the government's proposal to take away the exemption.

Proposal No. 1 of the government stated that residents of Ontario collectively will bear a reduced share of the property taxes. This,

of course, was to be the political centrepiece of the reform programme. After all, most voters live in residences. But when citizens' groups and others dug into the details, they found it wasn't going to turn out that way for many of them, perhaps the majority. And now the Blair commission's recommendations would cause further drastic increases to many homeowners and remove the possible benefits to many other classifications.

They say the apartment dwellers will have great benefits. Blair says they will pass on that reduction in taxes to the tenants, but there's this rather significant statement in that report: "They shall pass that on for a period of five years or the period of the lease, whichever is the less." Of course, we know that most leases only go for one year or two years at a maximum and now, because of The Landlord and Tenant Act, many of them don't have leases at all. So any benefits that the tenants might get now can be withdrawn very quickly.

There's another aspect of this too. It also proposes that the apartment dwellers' tax credit, which has been 20 per cent of the rent they have been paying, be reduced to 10 per cent. Whether or not they get the benefit of the lower tax payments on apartments, their tax credit is going to be reduced from 20 per cent of their rent to 10 per cent.

There are two other Blair proposals of tremendous significance. One is that they recommend a substantial change in the property tax credit. It provides that for those in the gross income range of \$7,500 to \$13,500, the property tax credit will be cut by more than half, resulting in an average net tax increase of more than 20 per cent.

They also propose the removal of the pensioner tax credit of \$110; and I want to provide some figures on what this really means, in net taxes, to certain income classes of pensioners. A senior citizen who is single, who has an income of \$3,500 and who has, according to the Blair commission's own tables, an average gross tax now of \$281, pays a net of \$73. Under the new system, he would pay a net of \$36, but he loses his \$110 senior citizens' tax credit, so the real net goes to \$146 from \$73, or an increase of 86 per cent.

Mr. Shore: You should have been a magician.

Mr. Cunningham: Marvin, that will be the end of you.

Interjections.

Mr. Swart: That's a great place to bring in a criticism—to the old-age pensioner.

A couple with an income of \$5,500 pays an average tax of \$353 and pays a net of \$187 after the tax credit. That will go down to \$64. But in losing the \$110, his saving is only \$13 for a decrease in net taxes of seven per cent.

Let's go up to the next bracket. A couple with an income of \$7,500 has average taxes of \$359 and pays a net tax now of \$225. That would go up to \$287, but they would lose the \$110 tax credit; so their net taxes would increase by \$172 or 77 per cent, under the proposal of the Blair commission.

Right on up to the \$11,000 income bracket; this kind of net increase in property taxes to pensioners will take place.

One other point should be about the Blair recommendations on residential taxation, and I think I'll just have time to make it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You've got one minute to make it. You're already into one of the two minutes that the hon. member for Durham East didn't use.

Mr. Swart: The commission recommends that the \$500 tax credit limit be removed. This, in fact, may help some people with moderate incomes, but the greatest benefit will go to the homeowners with higher incomes and extremely valuable houses. To offset this situation, the income-reducing factor should be raised to three per cent for the portion of taxable income over \$10,000 and four per cent over \$15,000.

[4:45]

Let me conclude by saying that I think the concern of the different parties can be shown in the number of briefs that were presented to the Blair commission.

In our NDP caucus, there was a 21-page brief from our caucus. Some of our members presented briefs. The member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans) presented a brief, the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) presented a brief and I did myself. According to the report, there was one brief from the Liberal caucus, one-third in length, and the member for Wentworth North also presented a brief. The Conservative members presented no brief whatsoever.

Mr. Cunningham: Call the election.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I just say to you that we in this party would introduce changes in assessment at the same time as we introduce some real property tax reports.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Humber has the floor for up to 15 minutes.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had hoped on this occasion that I would have a little time to deal with the various aspects of one of my ministries—that of the Solicitor General—but because of the 15 minutes you have suggested I'm going to pass over quickly to the matter of policing and not deal with some of the other things I had hoped to do.

In any event, just before I pass, in Thunder Bay on Saturday last I was referring to the manner in which you conducted the business of this House. I was groping for the right words. I think I have now come up with them. I say your voice has the sharp business-like command of a steam locomotive whistle as it echoes across the Precambrian Shield. With that in mind, I want to commend both the job that you are doing as Deputy Speaker and Speaker in a most difficult task.

As I said, I want to pass right away on to the matter of policing, and I may encroach on three or four minutes that my colleague, the Minister of Labour, expected to use, but if I'm over 18 let me know, sir. I'm going to keep to my notes because of the time factor.

As Solicitor General it is personally fulfilling to be associated with many of the programmes that help make Ontario one of the safest areas in which to live. But a source of greater pride and assurance to me is the fact that Ontario police officers, who carry out a difficult and dangerous part of public safety work, are performing splendidly.

Our high-calibre provincial, regional and municipal police forces are doing an excellent job of keeping order and peace. Relentless scrutiny of our police officers by government and the public has resulted in correcting some weaknesses within the system and this benefits all of us, yet there is often misinformed and unobjective criticism by some members of society which only hampers the police. They are criticized for allegedly acting too zealously or for wanting the authority to carry out certain duties more effectively. Yet they are chastized for supposedly not doing enough.

Mr. Lawlor: This is the best of all possible worlds.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: As part of my responsibility, my ministry has been continually alert to the problem of organized crime in Ontario and has erected effective efforts to contain this type of activity. An excellent example is the joint forces operation where two or more police forces aid each other in a concerted effort to deal with a particular

organized crime problem that has been identified. The success of the RCMP, the OPP and the local police forces, through joint force operations, and with continued assistance from the Ontario Police Commission, demonstrate the ability of various police units to co-operate. The JFOs have been going on since 1966, with an intensified effort since 1973.

Organized crime encompasses so many different types of criminal activity involving widely varying numbers of people that our methods to contain it must be kept at maximum efficiency. To be effective, our intelligence methods must be carried on quietly.

Only three months ago a meeting was held by senior officials of my ministry, the Ministry of the Attorney General, the OPP, the RCMP and the Metropolitan Toronto police. Their unanimous opinion was that a public inquiry into organized crime would not be in the public interest. Such an inquiry would certainly impair the effectiveness of police investigations which rely on undercover and surveillance activities that cannot be made public.

Mr. Cunningham: You sure fixed that poor boy in Hamilton.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: As these knowledgeable people pointed out, they have not had great difficulty in identifying major criminal figures. The problem is in gathering appropriate evidence to arrest and convict such individuals. I am therefore not prepared to recommend that a public inquiry into organized crime in Ontario be held at this time. What is more urgently required are the people and the advanced systems to tackle the growing sophistication of modern criminals, especially those in organized crime.

On December 15 last, in response to a question on organized crime, from the member for Rainy River (Mr. Reid), I quoted police as suggesting to me: "If you have an extra \$1 million for police, don't spend it on investigations which will do very little. Let us have more men and equipment." To this end, my ministry will provide additional funding of \$1¼ million to be employed specifically in combatting organized crime.

The Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) has been a strong advocate of this action, and we believe this is the most effective way to contain the problem. Such funding will help police forces to obtain the personnel and equipment needed to improve their efforts. We are confident that this additional funding will bring about even more tangible and meaningful results in combating organized

crime. These funds will be applied immediately to the development, within the special services division of the OPP, of substantially increased criminal intelligence and investigation and investigative operations, thereby expanding the joint-force operations.

The term "organized crime" is bandied about freely. This is a vague term which means different things to different people. It may be appropriate at this time to define what the term "organized crime" should mean.

Organized crime means two or more persons concerting together over a period of time to participate in illegal activities. Organized crime activities known in Ontario are dealing in fraudulent securities, counterfeit money, arson, extortion, loan sharking, alien smuggling, the smuggling of stolen cars and stolen jewellery, narcotics, trafficking, gambling, prostitution and pornography.

We all know that loan sharking is one of the major money-making schemes of the criminal element. Spinoff crimes from loan sharking have been, and still are, responsible for other crimes such as bombings, beatings, business takeovers, bankruptcies, thefts, drugs and murders.

Many types of fraud have been exposed recently. These could include welfare, unemployment insurance, OHIP, large-scale real estate and so on. Frauds on elderly people, whether it be the so-called bank-inspector fraud or aluminum-siding fraud, are of concern. The distribution of pornographic material, books and films is on the increase. This is probably due to the permissive society we live in, whereby many things from books and advertising to movies at the local theatre are sex oriented.

Mr. Makarchuk: It also makes money.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Most of this material is manufactured in the United States and brought into Ontario. Criminal gangs have been with us in Ontario for a long time. We have known about them for a long time and our police have been effectively fighting them for a long time. The province of Ontario has pioneered in many areas in a concerted effort to contain and suppress organized crime. Let me itemize the forces and agencies we employ to contain organized crime in Ontario.

The local police forces which maintain general law and order in cities, townships and regions are also involved in battling more sophisticated criminality. Many of these local forces work very closely with provincial and federal officers in co-operating investigations.

The Ontario Provincial Police, within its overall responsibility for policing the remainder of the province and highway traffic control, also maintain a criminal investigation branch. The OPP is at the forefront of this province's effort to contain organized crime. Particularly useful in this regard is the OPP special services division which includes among others the anti-rackets branch, anti-gambling branch, criminal intelligence, criminal investigation branch and the drug enforcement section.

All the OPP units have gained increasing success against organized crime. For instance, the criminal intelligence branch has been able to provide a high level of effectiveness to assist many investigations.

The provincial forces work closely with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. As part of its responsibility for the internal security of our country and of federal law enforcement, the RCMP is involved in many aspects of organized crime. Co-operative efforts are continually made in this area by the RCMP, the OPP and the local forces.

To be fully effective, police forces must link their activities in united effort. Accordingly, since 1970, intelligence units of all major Canadian police forces have been joined together in a single system for the common purpose of fighting any attempts to establish organized crime in our country.

The Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario is an association of intelligence officers in Ontario's police forces. CISO is the first organization of its kind on the continent. It provides a central collection agency for all criminal and intelligence information submitted by members. This material is analysed and disseminated to those with a need to know. Members of CISO meet regularly to keep up to date on the current developments of organized crime in the province.

The CISO concept was adopted in 1971 on a nation-wide basis known as the Criminal Intelligence Service of Canada. This organization involves all the major police forces in the country with a central bureau in Ottawa staffed by the RCMP. There are also provincial offices across the country.

Ontario's municipal police departments and the OPP were the first in Canada to be officially linked to the Canadian police information centre in Ottawa. This rapid access data bank of computerized information is maintained by the RCMP. It is a valuable extra tool in providing additional criminal records to our investigators.

The free exchange of intelligence between police organizations has done much to identify major figures involved in organized crime in Ontario. It has helped to identify their illegal activities and prevent some of their planned operations. In some cases it provided evidence which led to criminal convictions. I would point out that a considerable degree of success has been achieved by the entire police intelligence organization in making the province of Ontario an unhealthy place for organized crime.

A recent review of existing procedures and resources has made it clear that largely because of the 1974 amendments to The Criminal Code relating to wiretapping and other forms of electronic surveillance substantially increased resources are required if law enforcement officials in Ontario are to maintain the high level of efficiency in the detection and prosecution of organized crime that the public of Ontario has enjoyed in the past. The wiretap legislation of 1974 created a number of problems for the police, especially in their attempts to combat organized crime. Some of these problems have been lessened by judicial decisions and have been the subject of representations made to the governments of Canada by the police and by the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario.

The recent review has, however, established beyond doubt that the additional workload that this legislation has imposed upon the police and Crown counsel with respect to such matters as the preparation and service upon the accused of transcripts and summaries of recorded conversations, together with all the other documents that must be compared in compliance with the legislation, makes this increase in resources necessary. The proper execution of these functions is essential to the realization of the rationale of this legislation, for it is only when meticulous care is taken in following the procedures laid down in the legislation that the privacy of the individual will be properly respected and protected.

Law enforcement officials in this province have achieved considerable success in their efforts to follow the legislative standards and requirements to ensure that the rights of citizens in this province under this law are properly protected, but in doing so it has been necessary to divert personnel and other resources from regular criminal, intelligence and investigative work, especially in the area of organized crime. It is hoped that this substantial increase in the OPP budget will permit the intelligence branch of the OPP not to only participate fully

in expanded joint force operations relating to organized crime, but at the same time maintain a high level of service to municipal police forces throughout Ontario in the criminal intelligence field.

Counsel in the special prosecutions branch of the Ministry of the Attorney General will be available to assist police officers involved in this expansion of the joint force operation as their legal and other prosecutorial advice is needed. In addition, the officers in charge of the special service division of the OPP, the officers in charge of criminal operations of the RCMP of Toronto and the inspector in charge of the intelligence bureau of the Metropolitan Toronto police, together with other senior police officers, will continue to meet regularly with the director of the special prosecutions branch to ensure that the fullest possible legal and prosecutorial assistance is provided. These officials, together with the commissioner of the OPP, the assistant commissioner of the RCMP in charge of O division in Toronto, the chief of the Metropolitan Toronto police and other representatives from municipal and regional police forces in Ontario will in turn be able to keep the Attorney General and the Solicitor General fully briefed on the progress of these increased efforts to investigate and prosecute organized crime.

I've dealt quickly with a very important subject. I believe I've taken my 15 minutes.

Mr. MacDonald: Because of the time restrictions, I intend to devote my comments this afternoon to one topic only, the Barrie annexation issue, and the comment that it makes on this government's policies for the preservation of agricultural land.

The fruit lands of the Niagara Peninsula have long been cited as the classic example of conflict between, on the one hand, professed government policy to preserve unique resources and, on the other hand, the toleration and even promotion of policies which gradually destroy them. But the current effort of the city of Barrie to annex 20,000 acres of neighbouring townships, some 13,600 of which are class 1 to 3 land, and to do so in direct response to provincial government policies and pressures threatens to make an even greater mockery of our objective of protecting prime agricultural land for future generations.

Every time this issue is raised the province's chief planner, the provincial Treasurer loudly interjects that his government is in favour of growth—and presumably nobody else is—that Barrie has been chosen as a

major growth centre and that objectors are simply standing in the way of progress. So let's, at the outset, clear away this specious argument with which the provincial Treasurer is now confusing the public debate.

[5:00]

Nobody is seeking to frustrate the reasonable growth of the city of Barrie. On the contrary, all parties involved, including the neighbouring townships, have expressed support for annexing enough land to meet Barrie's foreseeable industrial expansion. But there is widespread and growing objection to such a massive annexation of prime agricultural land for urban development, when Barrie's own official plan indicates that the existing boundaries can accommodate a residential population of 57,000 people and the present population is approximately 33,000, and the Ontario government's own projections envisage a population of 50,600 by the year 2001.

In true developer fashion, our provincial chief planner is attempting to bulldoze the public into acceptance of a concept of expansion for which there is no reasonable statistical basis. Moreover, he is doing so at the unnecessary sacrifice of thousands of acres of prime agricultural land, which presumably this government is committed to protect and preserve.

The development of the Barrie annexation question is yet another graphic example of the provincial government's failure to plan in any reasonable fashion. The so-called planning process was initiated in 1970 through Design for Development. A year later, in a status report on the Toronto-centred region, Barrie was singled out as an area in which growth is to be stimulated, because it is within easy access of Metropolitan Toronto but outside the normal range of commuting. That report also called for the establishment of what later came to be known as the Simcoe-Georgian Bay area task force, set up in 1972.

The provincial government retained a strong role in the planning process of the SGATF, and provincial bureaucrats chaired both the political and technical committees. Thus it was able to have a significant input into the development of the plan which emerged. The annexation move itself is a direct local initiative of the city of Barrie, but it is based on the conclusions of the SGATF, which reflected provincial government planning policies.

The real issue is the assumptions on which Barrie based its actions, and thus the kind of

leadership and policies provided by the provincial government. At the heart of that issue are the population projections for the area. In the SGATF report, the Barrie urban area is projected to grow from 35,900 people in 1974, to 75,000 in 1991, to 125,000 in the year 2011. At the same time as the government tabled the SGATF report, in April of 1976, the government also tabled a two-volume report entitled *Ontario's Changing Population*, which is by far the most comprehensive and thorough population projection done for the province. It projects Barrie's population to be between 38,900 and 39,100 by 1986 and 48,300 to 50,600 by 2001. In other words—admittedly there's a 10-year difference in the span—a contrast between 50,000 and the projections of the SGATF, which the government had inspired, of 125,000. Clearly, the one hand of the provincial government doesn't know what the other one is doing—in itself a commentary on the accuracy of the government's planning capacity.

The report on Ontario's Changing Population was examined in detail by an independent population projection expert, Ms. D. Macunivich, who gave evidence before the OMB for Simcoe county. She testified that the government's population study is excellent, but even when she changed some of the assumptions from reasonable to optimistic, she still was unable to project Barrie's population beyond 76,700 by the year 2011, as compared to the 125,000 figure which the government has accepted as the target.

Of course, population projections are based only on known development prospects. As Ms. Macunivich testified, if the government is determined for policy reasons that Barrie should grow to 125,000—the figure which the chief planner confirmed in his letter to the OMB—that can be achieved only by dramatic initiatives, none of which have so far been announced. Furthermore, if Barrie is going to be force-fed to a population level of 125,000, instead of the reasonable projection of some 50,000, it can only be at the expense of discouraging growth from other centres in the central Ontario region. If Barrie gains to this extent, other areas must lose.

In short, the Treasurer's assertion that the Barrie urban area has been allocated a population of 125,000 by the year 2011 is a statistical stab in the dark. There is no reasonable assumption that it will be achieved, as evidenced by the government's own figures in the report, *Ontario's Changing Population*; as evidenced by the absence of any policies which would justify the expectation of a

dramatic population increase of an extra 75,000 people from the projected 50,000 from the Ontario's Changing Population report, to the Treasurer's unsubstantiated 125,000.

Since all parties involved in the annexation hearings have no objection to a limited extension of Barrie's boundaries to meet foreseeable industrial development needs, and since Barrie's existing boundaries can accommodate residential needs for the population growth through to the end of this century, as envisaged by the government report on Ontario's Changing Population, there is no justification for extending urban boundaries to include thousands of acres of prime agricultural land. Such a move would be at least premature.

On Friday last the parliamentary assistant to TEIGA introduced in the course of his contribution to this Throne Speech debate the letter which was written by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) to the provincial Treasurer giving the views of his ministry—presumably the food land development branch—with regard to this whole issue. And the parliamentary assistant tended to leave the impression that there was no particular serious conflict between what was said in the agricultural minister's letter and what the government has set forth as an objective and which is pressing through the OMB and having Barrie carry the torch on.

Let me just quote one or two comments from this to show that within an obviously very carefully written letter—a very carefully written letter—there are some fundamental differences. For example, in his letter the Minister of Agriculture and Food points out that the Simcoe-Georgian Bay task force had recommended the reservation for food production of all existing and potential class 1 and 2 lands, as well as class 3 lands currently in production, plus all specialized land suitable for fruits and vegetables and tobacco. And then he has this wonderful sentence: "Although such retention policies are praiseworthy, I have noted that they fall slightly short"—may I interject, "slightly short," said he—"of the objectives utilized by my staff in the review of planning documents." In short, he's saying, "I don't agree." Why?

I continue the quote: "These objectives specify that class 1, 2, 3 and 4 agricultural lands, as well as areas of special or unique crops or soils should be retained for food production."

A little later he makes an even more important point. He said: "If all existing and potential class 3, along with class 1 and 2 lands, were included for reservation," re-

served for future food production, "the total reserved land area still contains only 53 per cent of the study area." And he adds, "This would seem to leave ample areas in which other growth could occur." Clearly, what he is saying is that there's no excuse for gobbling up such a massive amount of prime agricultural land.

Later in his letter he adds that these plans are designated urban lands that won't be required for the next 25 or 30 years—or they're envisaged to meet the requirements of the next 25 or 30 years. And he adds, and I quote: "In the interim it is desirable for these areas to remain in agricultural use and further the detailed staging for the development of these areas be required to enable farmers to make a logical and orderly retreat. In this regard, five years' advance notice might be an appropriate minimum."

Then in the second last paragraph of his letter he has another real rocker. He points out that "all of the land within existing urban boundaries will have to be efficiently used through infilling, and other similar local planning policies." In other words, if you apply that statement to Barrie, which has a capacity within its existing boundaries to accommodate a population of 57,000, when its existing population is only 33,000, what he in effect is saying is that there is no justification. Or, as I put it just a moment ago, it is at least very premature to move on to the inclusion within the urban boundaries of so much prime agricultural land when it is not going to be needed for the foreseeable future—for the next few years.

All this takes me to the next point I want to deal with briefly. It raises the question of the whole role of the OMB in the present situation—admittedly a very difficult one. The OMB is not a policy making body. It is a quasi-judicial body whose job is to interpret and to apply stated policies—the policies which have been spelled out by the government. The OMB, therefore, has the task of reconciling government policies when they are in conflict. And that, I suggest, is its task at the moment in reference to the Barrie examination.

Because what is in conflict? On one hand the OMB is faced with a statement of government policy reiterated by the chief planner, the Treasurer, in his letter to the OMB on December 15, 1976, that the government has approved in principle the population allocation of 125,000 to the Barrie urban area. But it also has solid testimony that this population projection is grossly exaggerated on the basis of present policies and the absence of

dramatic new policies to justify the force-feeding of Barrie's population projection by another 75,000 population.

On the other hand—and here is the conflict—the OMB has the government's oft-repeated policy statement that it is determined to protect and preserve prime agricultural land from unnecessary encroachment. On the basis of the evidence submitted to it, there is no justification for immediate annexation of some 13,600 acres of prime agricultural land for urban development. It may never be needed. It is certainly not needed for the foreseeable future. On the basis of the evidence now before it, and in strict conformity with the responsibility to interpret and reconcile stated government policies when they are in conflict, I suggest OMB has an obligation to assure Barrie's expansion, to meet its foreseeable industrial development—something which all of the neighbouring townships are willing to entertain—but it has also an obligation to see that that expansion shall be no more than that.

Interestingly enough in the latter portion of his comments, the parliamentary assistant had this comment. He said at no time has the government indicated how much land Barrie should have. That is rather interesting since he repeated that Barrie should have a population of 125,000 and therefore he implied that Barrie should have a great deal of land. Certainly it should be sufficient to accommodate a population of 125,000. Ideally the local people should sort it out themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you that that is a bit of pipe dreaming. The function of the OMB, when you have a conflict between neighbouring municipalities with regard to annexation, is to resolve these conflicts, because each side digs itself in. And I suggest that the OMB, with the hearing before it now, should take a look at one government policy which has projected a population target of 125,000 which cannot be justified and analyse it and reduce it to the foreseeable limits that will have to be met, and on the other hand it should face up to implementing that other government policy, namely the preservation of agricultural land.

[5:15]

Considerable emphasis has been focused of late, particularly by Liberal Party spokesmen, on the alleged influence of certain consultants and well-known Tory lawyers in the planning process and the current OMB hearings on the proposed Barrie annexation.

It is true that the largest developer landholder in the picture, South Simcoe Estates,

has used the firm of Proctor and Redfern in the past. It is true that Proctor and Redfern did Barrie's annexation study. It is true that the annexation boundaries happen to coincide with the southern boundaries of their holdings. It is true that one Mr. Webb, the previous law partner of the Premier, is representing them.

All of this is titillating stuff, with great potential for suspicion and innuendo. But it shouldn't be permitted to distract attention from the provincial government's failure to plan on a reasonable and substantiated basis. That is the basic problem. For a government to be deliberately promoting growth targets that will result in the premature destruction of thousands of acres of prime agricultural land makes a mockery of its own guidelines for the protection of food lands for future generations. While the Minister of Agriculture and Food mouths these noble objectives, the chief planner, the Treasurer, is riding roughshod over them.

It underlines once again the desperate need for this government to respond to the demands of both the Rural Ontario Municipal Association and the Ontario Institute of Agrologists that legislation should be passed. Indeed, they said legislation should have been passed last year, designating class 1, class 2 and class 3 lands for future food production, that machinery should be set up for considering any legitimate exemption from such preservation and that such exemptions should be considered when there is no lower-class land available or when the immediate need is solidly substantiated.

Such a law is not only necessary to strengthen the position of rural municipal leaders who have asked for it to enable them to cope with the relentless pressures of developers, but such a law is needed even more to stop ministers violating this government's own stated policies on preserving agricultural land unless and until they have publicly provided solid justification.

In short, such a law wouldn't be a freeze, as the Liberals and the Tories are wont to describe it, but effective legislation protecting prime agricultural land combined with machinery for considering legitimate exemptions.

Mr. Eaton: Didn't the NDP candidate up there vote for the legislation?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to participate in the debate on the Throne Speech. I hoped to begin my remarks with some allusion to

the important event which is happening this year in Britain, and therefore in Canada as well—Her Majesty's 25th anniversary—and to draw to the attention of my colleagues in the House the example of selfless devotion and dedication to duty which she has given us, which I think each of us should exercise in our responsibilities to the resolution of the current conflict within Canada. However, I will dispense with my wishes in order to remain within the time limits which have been allotted to me.

One of the things that I have learned in my relatively short stay here is that sometimes in the heat of the moment within this House, members may transgress the limits of parliamentary procedure and propriety, diverting attention from the fulfilment of our responsibilities to the people of this province. It is at such times, Mr. Speaker, that we look to you and your deputy to direct our attention to the task at hand. You, Mr. Speaker, and your deputy have carried out your often onerous duties with exceptional skill and grace, and I offer you both my sincere appreciation.

There are several topics which require you, Mr. Speaker, and your deputy to excise—to exercise your right of caution.

Mr. Wildman: "Excise" is a better word.

Hon. B. Stephenson: One of those has been one which has precipitated perhaps more rancour than was necessary: that topic, of course, was the Workmen's Compensation Board. Recently the Leader of the Opposition initiated a series of public meetings on this topic, an action which I find regrettable since it was undertaken, as it was stated in the press release which accompanied the announcement, for crass political purposes.

This action prompts me to provide some factual information regarding this much-maligned and seldom-praised institution. Perhaps I should begin with a statement of the historical development and purpose of the board. In 1915 this Legislature established The Workmen's Compensation Act and the board in Ontario to minimize conflict between employers and employees over assignment of fault for work accidents, and to provide as well for impartial adjudication and rapid payment from a fund based on the principle of collective liability at reasonable cost to society as a whole. These original principles remain the underpinnings of the Workmen's Compensation Board function and of its philosophy today.

In spite of the 60 intervening years, years marked by the most dramatically rapid social

and technological change experienced in human history, our population has tripled and industrial processes and new products by the hundreds have been developed, bringing with them myriad unanticipated complicating factors and problems. With these increases has come an increase in the numbers of accidents and an even great increase in demand for service from both employers and employees.

Since 1915 the scope and coverage of the Act have been greatly expanded to include total medical aid and physical and vocational rehabilitation. But despite these improvements the Workmen's Compensation Board has been wrongly accused, and I quote, "of riding roughshod over the legitimate demands of the working people."

It must be remembered that the Workmen's Compensation Board does not deal with machines nor with products; it deals with people. Each claim represents a human being and each must be, and is, dealt with on an individual basis.

Mr. Wildman: As if they were machines.

Mr. Gaunt: If they were any slower they would stop.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Each claim must be dealt with on its individual merit. I would agree that the process of collating all the relevant facts, assembling the basic file, creating the computer control and producing the initial checks and statistical information may resemble an assembly line. But the resemblance stops there.

Mr. Wildman: It never comes to a head.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Each and every claim must be reprocessed at least every two weeks to ensure the legislative service to the individual claimant is fully and properly carried out. The support of exotic electronic systems has been invaluable to improve the claims function of the board, but a responsible compensation system depends not upon automation, but upon individual consideration of each and every claim with human understanding, with equity and with fairness.

This assembly has legislated to the Workmen's Compensation Board the role as a quasi-judicial agency, to make difficult decisions regarding claims and levels of benefits. Under the Act, the board cannot substitute ad hoc-ery nor expedient greasing of squeaking wheels for either careful management or responsible decision-making. Basing its deliberations on collected factual informa-

tion, on the opinions of internationally recognized experts in medical and health-related fields, on the particular characteristics of the life circumstance of each claimant, the board tries diligently to exercise that function honestly, responsibly and humanely—and that is a fact.

Mr. Martel: Says who?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Another fact: During 1976 a total of \$357 million was distributed to claimants—\$198 million in compensation, \$100 million in pensions, \$55 million in medical aid and \$4 million in rehabilitation. Administration costs in that year totalled \$26.7 million, less than seven per cent of the total amount of money the board is responsible for.

A second point I feel should be noted is that the Ontario system of workmen's compensation is recognized as a model throughout the world. The Workmen's Compensation Board of Ontario is widely acclaimed for the non-legalistic, non-adversary, collective liability system and for the benefit levels which are provided at reasonable cost.

Mr. Martel: Provided you can establish a claim.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The United States federal white paper on the need for reform of workmen's compensation in the United States reports extremely favourably on the role, the achievements and the function of the Workmen's Compensation Board of Ontario. Each year dozens of administrators from many states of the Union and from many other nations are sent by their jurisdictions to learn the administrative process of the Workmen's Compensation Board, and just recently I had the pleasure of accompanying the governor of Ohio through the rehabilitation centre in northwest Toronto.

In spite of the opposition's insistent verbal extravagances—painting the board as an oppressive, inhumane, Gestapo-like body, depriving workers of their rights—the fact is that its picture is simply not true. I submit that the aim of that group is to fashion its fabrications in conventional wisdom, if you like, through its well-used mechanism of the repetitious and continuous expounding of ill-founded personal viewpoints and careless or deliberate distortions of truth. I find it interesting that, while people who govern elsewhere are trying to learn from our accomplishments—

Mr. Wildman: Be specific.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —some people, who would give their eye teeth to govern Ontario,

are declaring that we have accomplished nothing at all.

I would like to deal with comments about the board contained in the Ombudsman's report because that information should be put into proper perspective. Within the Ombudsman's area, the Workmen's Compensation Board was included in the government agencies group—

Mr. Martel: Your friends couldn't be wrong, could they?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —as opposed to the government ministries group. This is quite a distinction since the board was thereby compared with agencies such as the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, the Labour Relations Board and the Liquor Licence Board, whose volume of decision-making is minimal compared with the board's massive decision-making responsibility.

The report indicated the Ombudsman had dealt with 349 complaints about workmen's compensation during his first 15 months. The total number of compensation complaints received during that period was 602; 349 were dealt with, and the report recognized that more than two-thirds of the complaints filed about the Workmen's Compensation Board did not come within the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman, since they were either premature or related to problems such as delayed payments rather than the decisions of the appeal board.

During the first 15 months there were 141 complaints related to the final appeal level. Those 141 complaints consisted of claims over a span of 47 years, during which the board has made countless decisions on almost 10 million claims. Only one complaint—

Mr. Martel: Well, the 457 to my office over 11 months was not in the 47 years.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —related to an appeal of a 1976 claim and only four related to the 395,528 claims reported in 1975. The bulk of the claims related to the period from 1965 to 1974 which, incidentally, was the period spanned by the three-level system, first introduced in 1965 to ensure greater opportunity for appeal.

Of the 141 cases in which the Ombudsman had jurisdiction, 29 were closed. In 14 cases, the board decision was found to be fair and just. Recommendations for change were made in 15 cases. The Workmen's Compensation Board accepted recommendations in five cases and in the remaining 10 other action was

taken, such as further hearings before the board on the basis of additional information.

Mr. Mancini: A lot of those.

Hon. B. Stephenson: At a meeting with the Workmen's Compensation Board, the Ombudsman said that when compared with the multitude of decisions made by the Workmen's Compensation Board, the comparatively low volume of complaints was a tribute to the Workmen's Compensation Board. This was not the perspective reported to the public, but again, I think it demonstrates—

Mr. Martel: Baloney.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —that the board is not the irresponsible, oppressive agency some would like the public to believe it is.

Mr. Warner: Why don't you resign?

Mr. Martel: Don't be an apologist.

Hon. B. Stephenson: There is one other point which I would like to present—the causal relationship between work conditions and illness and injury. Under the provisions of The Workmen's Compensation Act, the board provides compensation and pensions for work-related illness and injury. It is not now, nor has it ever been, especially difficult to determine the relationship between trauma or accidental injury and work performed. There are, as well, a few illnesses such as pneumoconiosis and asbestosis and silicosis which can be readily, or as equally readily, directly related to work.

Mr. Wildman: Then why aren't they?

Hon. B. Stephenson: However, there are many illnesses, some of the most problematical, which are multicausal.

Mr. Martel: Like chronic bronchitis.

Hon. B. Stephenson: A multicausal illness is, of course, one which develops as a result of a number of factors—

Mr. Wildman: What about the silicosis?

Hon. B. Stephenson: —and I would list for you the factors.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The genetic structure of the individual, which determines the degree of sensitivity or resistance to allergies or irritants and other materials;—

Mr. Makarchuk: Are you sure about that?

Hon. B. Stephenson: —the exact nutritional status of the individual; personal habits such as cigarette smoking, exercise, alcohol consumption; the simple process of aging; and finally, exposure to potential environmental irritants such as chemicals or radiations.

One's racial origin may also be a significant factor. For example, a white-skinned, blue-eyed blond is far more prone to develop cancer of the skin of the face than any of the dark-skinned brothers or cousins. I would, particularly, draw this to the attention of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis), who, just a few days ago in this chamber, defamed a well-respected epidemiologist, by suggesting that in raising this issue—

Mr. Martel: He used filthy language.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —in his careful critique of Dr. Selikoff's brief, the epidemiologist was motivated by racial and socioeconomic discriminatory attitudes. The only word for that kind of accusation is shameful.

Mr. Wildman: Withdraw.
[5:30]

Hon. B. Stephenson: Chronic bronchitis, hearing loss, emphysema and malignant disease or cancer are examples of multicausal diseases. Where such diseases can be shown to have a causal relation and to have been caused by the relationship to the materials and substances—

Mr. Martel: Filthy.

Mr. Warner: Are you using that filthy language? You are a disaster.

Mr. Wildman: I have got a silicosis case.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —and circumstances within a work place, the Workmen's Compensation Board is able to provide compensation under a very broad interpretation under the existing legislation, and that is precisely the trail-blazing route which this board has followed—

Mr. Warner: Minister of apology.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —demonstrating leadership in this area for all other North American compensation agencies.

The fifth point I would like to make with reference to the board is the demonstrative leadership of the board in the field of vocational rehabilitation through the establishment of an institution and a programme that is second to none. It is a programme that

sponsors a rehabilitation centre in north-western Toronto that is renowned for being the most comprehensive, the most progressive and responsive and effective centre for getting people back on the job, for restoring health and repairing the damage which injury has caused and as far as possible for returning people to a normal and productive way of life.

Mr. Warner: It has the highest number of injuries too.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Recognizing the need to enhance vocational rehabilitation, the board within recent weeks has approved additional vocational rehabilitation officers and rehabilitation specialists to increase that complement to a total of approximately 130. The additional staff is to be directed almost totally to the regional areas of the province in order to improve the function there. These additions will enable the board to concentrate much greater effort on returning injured and disabled workers outside of Toronto to more suitable work and to help industry create employment opportunities for them.

My final comment regarding the Workmen's Compensation Board deals with appeals, because there has been a great deal of criticism that appeals require two years or more. I suppose that is a situation which is possible but it is certainly very rare and perhaps I should explain very briefly the appeals mechanism. The first level of review is the appeals examiner who, after reviewing a file, can recommend one of three courses of action.

First, he may recommend that the appeal be allowed, based on new evidence or errors within the claims division. The examiner would make that recommendation to a single commissioner who can accept or reject the recommendation. Nine per cent of all appeals are handled in this manner. Secondly, the examiner may recommend the appeal be referred directly to an appeal board of three commissioners. About 22 per cent of appeals are dealt with in that manner. Thirdly, the examiner may refer the matter to a single commissioner after further investigation. About 69 per cent of appeals follow that procedure, and there is always the right to appeal to the three-member board from a lower decision.

In the nine per cent of cases referred directly to a single commissioner, the decision is available usually within one week. In the 22 per cent referred directly to an appeal board, the elapsed time averages out at about 13.5 weeks, eight weeks before the

appeal and 5.5 weeks from the beginning of the hearing until the decision. In the 69 per cent of cases in which further investigation is required, the elapsed time averages 7.5 weeks, four weeks before the hearing and 3.5 afterwards. This figure is for a hearing held in Toronto; it may take up to 10 weeks if the hearing is held outside Toronto.

Mr. Makarchuk: What are they supposed to do in the meantime? In the meantime, they have to go on welfare.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: One delaying factor for which the board cannot be held responsible is postponement at the request of the person filing the claim or the appeal. In December 1976, for example, the appeal board heard 83 cases. However, it received 73 requests for postponements. Another problem is setting up appointments with independent physicians, obtaining medical records and obtaining hospital admissions. Some cases may take longer than the average times I've mentioned and may, in fact take longer than the 24 weeks required for the two-hearing process, one before a single commissioner and one before the appeal board. However, they are definitely the exception rather than the rule.

I believe the Workmen's Compensation Board is serving the people of this province very well, given the legislative mandate which controls it—

Mr. Grande: Apology, apology.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —and the fact that it consists of mere mortals who are dealing with complex human problems related to compensating employees for illness and injuries directly related to the work place. I use the word "compensate" advisedly because, frankly, I question whether any sum of money or any amount of rehabilitation can truly compensate a person for the psychological damage suffered as the result of a loss—

Mr. Warner: You should compensate us for your presence.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —or a degree of physical disability following an accident.

Mr. Speaker: You have one minute left.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that this House realizes the government of this province has a strong commitment not only to the support and

enhancement of the workmen's compensation function—but also to the method of preventing the increasing number of accidents and work-related illnesses—

Mr. Martel: That would be something new, wouldn't it?

Hon. B. Stephenson: —which, in fact, are bothering this province at this time. If in presenting the factual information about the Workmen's Compensation Board, I am labelled, as the Leader of the Opposition has pejoratively put it, "an apologist for the board," I can only state that I would rather be so labelled than to be the author and perpetrator of a virulent programme of questionable opportunism to achieve political gain at the expense of injured and disabled workers in this province.

Mr. Martel: That's what you said about Elliot Lake.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I have made a personal commitment to do all that I can to assist the disabled workers of Ontario—

Mr. Makarchuk: How come they are coming out to the hearings?

Mr. Samis: You better read Francis of Assisi, you need it.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —both by assuring that the Compensation Board provides benefits with dispatch, with equity and, above all, with humanity and fairness, and particularly by working diligently to reduce the hazards of the work place through an innovative, aggressive and dedicated programme of occupational health and safety legislation.

Mr. Martel: Don't be too full of rhetoric.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to take part in the Throne Speech debate, and I intend to be brief and to the point. I am going to deal later, just briefly, with the WCB. We have obviously touched a sore point with the minister.

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, I just like the facts, that's all.

Mr. Martel: Oh, nonsense.

Mr. Mackenzie: I want to leave the shilling for the private sector to the member for Oriole and others on the government side of the House. I mean, who else would read into the record a speech by the president of Westinghouse to the Financial Institute of

Canada as gospel? The Conservatives have tried to picture the NDP as being doctrinaire and rigid, or a class party.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It's true.

Mr. Mackenzie: As the old saying goes, if the proof of the pudding is in the eating, or if the proof is in your actions, then never has a party been so exposed by its positions and policies as being clearly doctrinaire, rigid, inflexible and so outmoded or out of touch with the times as the Conservative Party.

This government has tunnel vision. It can see and hear or admit to nothing but assistance to the private sector and defend the status quo in dealing with all of the problems of the people of Ontario. I think the feelings of most New Democrats, certainly mine, is that there is no need for ideological rigidity at this point in time on either side of the House. What is needed above all else is a commitment to people as distinguished from machines and enterprise, a clear recognition of our problems and a willingness to deal with those problems without fear of losing favour with some group, and a willingness occasionally to break with some of the conventional traditions in our province.

The current Speech from the Throne, which attempts to have a little something for everybody in the province but doesn't really tackle our problems, I submit is going to lead to only more cynicism on the part of the people and distrust of and disbelief in politicians and political parties in this province. Much of the speech, as I listened to it, merely outlined some of the housekeeping measures that it is necessary for any party to undertake to run a government, and really when it comes to specifics or something that could excite the public or offer a useful course of action, it is just not there.

Surely this government has got to start addressing itself to the problems of the people of Ontario and to their fears and their aspirations. In my constituency unemployment is clearly the major problem, but I sometimes wonder if the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) really realize the plight of some of those who are unemployed. The younger people at the top of the list, or those who happen to suffer some slight handicap, some form of disability in their efforts to get a job, don't want welfare. They want to work. They want to establish themselves and be able to look forward to having a few of the good things of life.

I wonder about the increasing number who have 10 or 12 years seniority. They have started a family, they have got a housing programme under way and they simply want to be able to make the payments on their house and to protect the present. What about the older workers we are finding, in increasing numbers, out of work? They have earned, they feel, some security in their final years. Their best years are behind them. How can a government be so abstract, so unfeeling, when there is a real matter of human dignity at stake? They don't want welfare either, and they don't deserve to live out their final years in fear and hopelessness.

When I heard the Treasurer of the province of Ontario say the province did not have a responsibility to provide jobs, I could hardly believe my own ears. It is the people who elect a government in this province, and those people the government has a responsibility to. If there is a problem, if people are hurting because of a lack of employment, then the government's policy should be designed to put people to work in this province. I don't think it's proper that their only responsibility seems to be to keep the corporate and business world healthy so they don't hurt.

As far as I'm concerned, the Treasurer's position was a copout and a darned cheap shot at the unemployed of this province. When one listens and follows the government's action to deal with an economic downturn in the community, as we heard in the Throne Speech, we can clearly see how out of touch with reality and how rigid this government and this party have become. Over the last six years, the consistent approach has been to prime the business pump. Tax credits, sales tax exemptions on machinery; all, we're told to create employment. Yet just as consistently we see unemployment climb from 140,000 in 1971 to 316,000 this year—just about the highest in the province's history. Sometimes I get the feeling that to the Tories they're only numbers.

Surely the approximately \$1.15 billion that we've pumped into these kind of incentives since 1971 could have produced a significant number of jobs in housing, in forest regeneration, environmental clean-up and the funding of secondary manufacturing facilities in our resource sector; or the highly job-intensive services to people, particularly the infirm and the mentally retarded.

I'm always a little amused at this government's total commitment to private enterprise, without borrowing some of their practices at least. What's wrong, for example, with requiring a little equity for government moneys

or tax concessions to the business community? It makes sense to the business. Can any one of you see business, any business enterprise, lending money to another firm without requiring some security, some equity, for their money? I don't think so, and I wonder why it doesn't make sense to this government.

Why not demand jobs in return for the incentives? Why not develop our manufacturing potential in the resource field? Why does the loss of ownership and control, to say nothing of the drain of profits that goes with foreign ownership and the export of raw materials, hold such a fascination for the Conservative Party? I've never been able to understand it.

We used to can almost 80 per cent of our own peaches in the province of Ontario; now I understand we're down to about 22 per cent. I wonder, does the resulting loss of jobs, the disappearing tender fruit land, the additional drain of dollars to purchase imports, make any business sense at all? Are we not, literally, hocking the future of this province?

The Throne Speech gives no real encouragement to the need for waste reclamation or recycling plants and collection centres in this province. The government is willing to move immediately to ban non-returnable bottles and increase unemployment in difficult times, yet is not willing to move at the same time to set up the recycling plants and collection centres that are necessary to conserve our waste products. Spokesmen for the glass industry tell me that they could use four to five times the amount of waste glass they're presently getting. Seed money in this area could produce positive and multiplying results in the near future.

Over the past 10 to 20 years, the trend in the private manufacturing sector has been toward less jobs. At the same time we have a substantial increase in service and public sector jobs. But once again the approach of this government is to cut back in the area of social services. Its inflexible rigidity really shows in its dealings with the unemployment problem by cutbacks in labour-intensive public sector jobs. The myth of Tory competence becomes obvious through their inability to tackle the real problems of how we distribute the wealth of this province and the fruits of our production in a way that's a heck of a lot fairer to all of the people.

[5:45]

Why does the Throne Speech fail to deal with another major concern of our constituents, the constant struggle of the older people

and the people with homes to make ends meet? How do they pay their taxes and meet major cost increases, like energy and utilities? For pensioners and those on fixed incomes, major increases added to the cost of the nickel-and-diming-to-death they're getting through increases in costs are really starting to hurt. Those trying to buy or to hang onto and maintain their homes still don't know where they stand with regard to property taxes.

In Hamilton they still wonder at the duplication of services still too obvious in regional government. Government cutbacks in social services undermine the support programmes, the meals-on-wheels, the housekeeping, et cetera, needed to keep pensioners in their homes and out of the institutional and nursing homes.

Where are the homes for the low-income and large families? They are in such short supply. How many Throne Speeches in this province have promised this kind of additional housing. And what's the situation? In Hamilton, as of January 31, we had registered—and they had updated the cheques—at a meeting of the Hamilton Housing Authority 720 applications for large low-income family homes. What did we have under construction? We had 57, plus 131 rent subsidy. There was a waiting list of six months even to get one's name on the list for one of these homes.

When it comes to the rent review legislation, most of us looked upon that as a chance, something that might really assist some of the people in the apartments. I think some of the increases that were applied for and were granted were too large, but at least the 20 per cent increases that were applied for in my riding—and I give credit to some of the rent review officers—were rolled back to 10 or 12 per cent. But what happened? All the bad landlords in all of the real problem buildings we found went to the appeal board. The appeal board in almost every single case raised the increases back to within a dollar of what had originally been granted, and as you know, Mr. Speaker, there is no appeal to the appeal board.

Mr. Martel: Thirty-two per cent.

Mr. Shore: Do you want an appeal to the appeal board? Is that what you want?

Mr. Mackenzie: I think the minister has allowed his biases to show and has deliberately undermined this government's own programme.

Mr. Shore: Who wrote that for you?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Hamilton East has the floor.

Mr. Mackenzie: The HOME programme has to be another example of this government's total ideological rigidity. Land costs, along with interest, are the major components in housing costs. This government is clearly on record as supporting the private market price.

HOME lots must go on the market at the market price to protect the private sector. Now that we're selling off the land across the province, the price is total market price. The government says with pride, and I heard them in this House the other day, we should be able to make a buck. Mr. Speaker, I say to you not at the expense of inflated housing prices to people in the province of Ontario, and not if it's simply designed to shore up and guarantee the speculator's profit in the province of Ontario.

Mr. Martel: That's what it's all about.

Mr. Mackenzie: Another issue which this government runs from is the problem of disappearing farm land. I want you to know, Mr. Speaker, that it's an issue that greatly concerns thoughtful city dwellers as well as the farmers in our province. Furthermore, there's an understanding that surprises you, when you get around, of the need to make provisions for the farmer and the equity he has built up in that farm when we talk about disappearing agricultural land. Once again, rather than address itself to that question so that we can get the co-operation of all in taking action to preserve our farm land, this government hides its head in the sand. It would be hard to convince any of my constituents, that there is any such thing as a Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations involved in consumer protection, whether it is jumps in automobile insurance costs from those friendly companies which want to free private enterprise so they can charge even more—

Mr. Martel: They want to free the vultures.

Mr. Mackenzie: —or whether it's the diabetic who has just had his made-in-Canada Connaught Laboratories insulin vial jump from \$3.60 to \$4.60. So much for price controls in this province.

In the east end of Hamilton there has long been a need for some type of community hospital. The case was well argued and documented by my predecessor in this House, Reg Gisborn. My colleague, the mem-

ber for Wentworth (Mr. Deans) has continued the request. A previous Minister of Health in this House, a member of the Tory government, accepted the need and promised action in this field. What does this government do? It refers it to the health council for the umpteenth study. That's really progress; one step forward and three back.

My colleague the member for Hamilton Centre (Mr. Davison) cites a blatant consumer ripoff by some of the income tax sharpies, and the minister responsible said it is not his responsibility. The Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth) makes a big thing of banning Sunday shopping and then does nothing as loopholes in the law are exploited and the law is made to look like an ass.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing to indicate improvement in the labour relations field in this province. Surely all of us recognize the need for improvement in the labour management sector if we are to improve production and better our chances on world markets.

Hon. B. Stephenson: How wrong can you be?

Mr. Mackenzie: And yes, I think the minister should not be quite so defensive. She seems to think she's the only one who has the answers and it's funny she's not relating with the rest of the people.

Mr. Shore: Who wrote it for you?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mackenzie: The labour minister announced plans for new safety and health legislation, and in the first couple of weeks that we had the legislation the unions required mediation to find out if the bill really means what it says.

Hon. B. Stephenson: In one local.

Mr. Shore: Let whoever wrote it for you read it.

Mr. Mackenzie: Bargaining in good faith in this province—it's not just one local, Madam Minister.

Mr. Wildman: The Sault Ste. Marie local has the same problem.

Mr. Mackenzie: Bargaining in good faith continues to be a joke in labour circles and no amount of abuse brings any government initiative to improve the situation. As one example, let me cite the cement, lime and gypsum workers at the quarry in Aberfoyle.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: You're too loud, you're going to wake some people up. You might learn something, Margaret.

Mr. Mackenzie: Nine months out of work, these 12 decent honest local citizens; the minister should go and talk to them. They made a desperate effort to achieve a first contract, trying for some continuity in their jobs so that they're not out of work as people are brought in from other areas in certain seasons of the year.

The issue is plain—job protection, union security, a first contract. Wages aren't even the issue. And what happens? We see a private security firm from Quebec come in, escort the scabs through the picket lines and work to break that strike after nine months.

Hon. B. Stephenson: We have one of the best mediators in Canada on that job right now; one of the best.

Mr. Mackenzie: There are very few things as despicable, Madam Minister, as a scab.

Mr. Conway: You will just have to resign.

Hon. B. Stephenson: No way; and let him take over?

Mr. Mackenzie: Stealing a man's job is about the lowest form—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Hamilton East has the floor.

Mr. Conway: Let Marvin take over.

Mr. Mackenzie: The examples I could go on to in this area are legion.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Oh no they are not.

Mr. Mackenzie: But I have to make one comment here. We talk about the efficiency of private enterprise. I wonder how one explains a group of strikebreakers, to begin with, at higher pay; plus eight outside security people brought in—boarded, and on long shifts escorting people in and out of that plant—from the province of Quebec; all to take away the jobs or break a union of 12 decent men. The costs on it just don't work out.

Mr. Shore: You've got to watch Quebecers.

Mr. Mackenzie: We move to runaway plants, and I don't have the time—my time is nearly over—there are a number of them that I could deal with in this province—

Mr. Wildman: The member for London North is the Evel Knievel of the Legislature.

Mr. Mackenzie: They are current situations in runaway plants. The Ajax plastics plant is only one example where the workers are losing their benefits and their built-up seniority and pension plans over the years. Delays, costs and frustrations resulting from the current arbitration and conciliation procedures have been outlined for this government for years. Once again, there has been virtual inaction up to this point.

Mr. Speaker: when it comes to the Workmen's Compensation Board we do have a disaster. I don't have time to go into it, but I'm sure we will get into that in this House. Most MPPs are loaded down with cases, virtually turned into social workers rather than legislators. I have over 175 cases myself in this field and I've turned an awful lot of them back to the unions.

Many claimants are forced onto municipal welfare rolls due to delays in receiving their money from the board. I've had to intercede with the local welfare authorities myself to try and get welfare while we argued about what's happening. And I want to make it clear that I'm talking about legitimate claims.

Mr. Shore: Certainly.

Mr. Mackenzie: There is a management problem; there's an administration problem; paper work abounds. Delays, lost files, inadequate rehab programmes, are daily problems of the members. The minister's response seems to be petulant, arrogant defiance. She certainly doesn't admit there's anything wrong with the board and she says in effect the problem does not exist: "If you have problems, just give them to me."

After hearing some of the answers from the minister, I want to tell her I wouldn't turn over a single one of my cases to her; I wouldn't trust the results.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I wouldn't turn over a dog fight to you.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Here, here now.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The point about trusting a minister, that's getting unparliamentary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: What point of order have you got?

Hon. Mr. Welch: That language is unfortunate.

An hon. member: The member for Sudbury East wouldn't know the difference.

An hon. member: Throw him out.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: Well, maybe you should have been in here when the minister made her speech and her remarks about the opposition.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Members can make points without impugning the character of the minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. minister and the member take their seats.

Mr. Shore: How are you feeling, Elie, all right?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I just point out that I did not hear what remarks were made because I was otherwise engaged.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Shame.

Mr. Martel: Shame? Read her speech.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is over the time which was allotted to him.

Mr. Shore: He hasn't got anything to say; it doesn't matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It was my understanding that the time left was supposed to be used by this member but I understand now there is also another member who would like to make a contribution for two or three minutes if you would bring your remarks to a close.

Mr. Martel: Well, the government House leader came in here and interfered.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Right is right.

Mr. Mackenzie: Really, I would not turn one of my cases over to that minister.

An hon. member: Throw him out!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are wasting valuable time.

Mr. Mackenzie: The people of Ontario are looking for some positive and innovative leadership. They want a government that will respond to their needs in this province. People don't want a radical revolution. They are not interested in ideological dogma. They do want a government of common sense. They want nothing more than a fair and honest break. The Tories in this province seem in-

capable of such fair and honest government, and probably the sooner they go to the people the better.

Mr. Good: There are two short items pertaining to budget paper E and the Blair commission's report that I would like to make reference to, Mr. Speaker.

First, I feel that non-profit and charitable organizations which properly qualify under a laid-down standard of rules should be exempt from property tax. The proposal to remove this exemption will only serve to erode the viability of the voluntary sector. Voluntary organizations play a valuable and irreplaceable role in community life, helping people to help themselves, fostering and supporting an attitude of self-reliance and of community spirit. If these organizations are subject to property tax, much of the time and energy volunteers now devote directly to community services will have to be diverted to fund-raising activities. This is not only a waste of valuable human resources, but it may also serve to erode the base of volunteer support, as many feel they will no longer be working to provide services but to pay taxes.

Services that will have to be curtailed by voluntary organizations will to some extent have to be replaced by government. Government activity is unlikely to cover the same range of services and will most certainly cost the taxpayers more than the cost of preserving the tax exemption. But, perhaps most important, government intervention will undermine the vital sense of community participation and self-determination.

The government proposals suggest that the municipality could then decide which, if any, of these organizations should receive grants to help to offset their municipal taxes. Under the proposals, certain properties would be re-

classified. Because of this, non-profit organizations such as the YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and the Rotary Crippled Children's Centre, would pay taxes on 100 per cent of market value, while those non-profit organizations such as Huronia Hall and Senior Citizens Home Apartments would pay 50 per cent.

A recent study has indicated that charitable organizations without completely offsetting rents would have a negative consequence. The proposal would stifle the development and growth of non-profit organizations, and community spirit and unity would be dampened. The study foresaw the elimination of non-profit agencies and the replacement of these services by government or the private sector. Assistance of some kind is seen as necessary, this study has suggested, and municipal grants equal to taxation would eliminate the problem. I am sure it would, Mr. Speaker, however, we have no guarantee that municipal councils or the exemption review committee, as proposed by the Blair commission, would come to an agreement that all currently exempt charitable organizations should receive grants or that they were offering valuable service.

I think the present system of exemption from property tax is much simpler and is not open to political interference. The exemption of these properties does, in fact, mean that their tax load is paid by the community at large. A small price, I say; and I suggest it be shared by all residents of the community.

Mr. Speaker: May I point out to the hon. member that it is 6 o'clock?

Mr. Good: I'm sorry. My watch must be in error. Thank you.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX

(See page 544.)

Answers to questions were tabled as follows:

22. Mr. Makarchuk—Inquiry of the ministry: Will the Ministry of Revenue give the reason and table all supporting evidence and correspondence related to the granting of a land speculation tax exemption to Lynden Hill Farms Limited, of R.R. No. 6, Brantford on the sale for \$4 million of parts of lots 40 and 41 in the county of Brant? The file number of the lien clearance certificate is 33-014234. Tabled April 4, 1977.

Answer by the Minister of Revenue (Mrs. Scrivener):

No exemption was granted under The Land Speculation Tax Act, 1974 in respect to the sale of the designated land by Lynden Hill Farms Limited.

The registration of a lien clearance certificate is no evidence of exemption. Lynden Hill Farms Limited remains liable for any tax payable.

The Land Speculation Tax Act, like other tax statutes, prohibits the communication by any person of any information obtained for the purposes of administering the Act.

23. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry: Would the Minister of Natural Resources list each provincial park campground and indicate total capital expenditures in the last 10 years for each campground; the number of staff normally employed; the normal yearly operating costs; and the distance to the nearest private campground? Tabled April 4, 1977.

Answer by the Ministry of Natural Resources:

	Capital expenditures from 1967-68 to 1976-77	No. of staff employed July-August, 1976	Operating costs 1976-77 ¹	Distance (miles) to nearest private campground
	\$		\$	
Aaron	87,322	9	44,700	Less than 1 mile
Algonquin	2,260,556	200	1,198,000	5
Antoine	15,518	2	6,264	7
Arrowhead	613,913	18	95,000	2
Balsam Lake	816,596	45	146,000	9
Bass Lake	347,496	19	85,000	15
Blacksand	116,023	9	47,294	10
Blue Lake	208,455	12	57,750	7
Bon Echo	278,245	55	263,712	6
Bonnechere	73,103	7	38,000	5
Caliper Lake	269,531	5	41,000	5
Carillon	1,075,874	37	160,000	13
Carson Lake	22,940	3	12,000	1
Charleston Lake	851,781	25	132,000	5
Chutes	16,911	10	56,751	Less than 1 mile
Craigleith	60,050	11	72,900	1
Cyprus Lake	529,519	23	131,900	7
Darlington	367,143	29	110,500	15
Devil's Glen	5,633	2	14,000	2
Driftwood	72,120	6	22,000	2
Earl Rowe	1,300,321	46	200,000	5
Emily	327,197	24	97,000	5
Esker Lakes	314,676	10	59,000	18
Fairbanks	263,496	14	53,602	12
Ferris	562,953	11	52,000	6
Finlayson Point	122,650	8	56,581	6
Fitzroy	463,619	24	89,000	12
Five Mile Lake	59,076	4	29,000	3
Fushimi	261,050	5	33,000	25

	Capital expenditures from 1968-68 to 1976-77	No. of staff employed July-August, 1976	Operating costs 1976-77 ¹	Distance (miles) to nearest private campground
	\$		\$	
Greenwater	293,710	5	29,000	21
Grundy Lake	478,737	50	170,000	2
Halfway Lake	820,082	14	48,730	20
Holiday Beach	187,968	21	130,000	2
Ipperwash	520,158	25	153,000	1
Iroquis Beach	355,714	21	110,400	3
Ivanhoe	315,052	9	55,000	1
Kakabeka Falls	437,042	22	98,995	1
Kap-Kig-Iwan	255,163	8	44,000	26
Kettle Lakes	358,553	11	65,000	5
Killarney	124,262	15	70,802	6
Killbear	1,105,968	65	220,000	2
Klotz Lake	50,520	3	17,114	1
Lake of the Woods	91,775	5	40,300	12
Lake St. Peter	58,573	6	30,000	1
Lake Superior	439,508	35	237,000	8
Long Point	194,834	24	136,000	12
MacGregor Point	2,940,609	20	91,400	2
MacLeod	115,940	6	37,665	14
Mara	107,606	19	62,500	4
Marten River	635,891	15	83,416	Less than 1 mile
Middle Falls	6,514	4	14,360	40
Mikisew	124,611	12	60,000	10
Missinaibi	89,457	4	27,000	58
Mississagi	206,687	8	63,885	11
McRae Point	691,329	19	76,500	4
Nagagmisis	276,530	9	57,000	23
Neys	48,430	13	54,856	16
Oastler Lake	171,440	12	50,000	2
Obatanga	279,225	12	61,166	5
Ojibway	219,686	8	41,900	12
Outlet Beach	375,340	54	210,000	Less than 1 mile
Pakwash	82,377	8	26,400	5
Pancake Bay	289,712	15	97,572	14
Pinery	2,027,965	116	480,000	Less than 1 mile
Point Farms	456,107	21	105,500	11
Presqu'île	567,570	44	185,000	7
Quetico	567,405	17	101,206	12
Rainbow Falls	239,417	18	66,397	3
Remi Lake	459,488	11	59,000	4
Restoule	622,013	13	95,521	3
Rideau River	172,817	22	82,000	9
Rock Point	679,970	15	63,500	3
Rondeau	497,712	53	293,000	2
Rushing River	296,710	16	85,500	6
Samuel de Champlain	387,297	13	84,414	7
Sandbanks	47,377	10	70,000	Less than 1 mile
Sandbar	341,768	7	39,300	7
Sauble Falls	100,712	12	73,300	Less than 1 mile
Selkirk	179,027	17	95,000	10
Serpent Mounds	220,320	20	95,000	Less than 1 mile
Sharbot Lake	250,502	12	59,700	6
Sibbald Point	742,032	60	260,000	6
Sibley	150,672	19	99,400	22
Silent Lake	1,235,192	10	60,000	4

	Capital expenditures from 1967-68 to 1976-77	No. of staff employed July-August, 1976	Operating costs 1976-77 ¹	Distance (miles) to nearest private campground
Silver Lake	89,682	11	64,600	3
Sioux Narrows	140,739	6	43,300	3
Six Mile Lake	101,830	21	100,000	8
South Nation	18,953	3	17,000	Less than 1 mile
The Shoals	168,391	5	32,000	14
Tidewater	115,791	3	17,000	186
Turkey Point	260,746	19	134,000	11
Wakami	90,930	6	35,000	26
Wheatley	255,611	24	154,000	1
White Lake	555,010	15	92,655	4
Windy Lake	178,671	14	51,829	10
Inwood ²	37,940	Under concession	3,545	1
Sturgeon Bay ²	113,402	Under concession	9,635	4

¹ 1976-77 operating costs do not include the cost for permanent staff salaries which equals about \$2,000,000 for the entire parks system.

² In 1976-77, these two parks were privately operated by concession agreement; the figures for ministry expenses are for pre- and post-season operating and maintenance only; the majority of the operating costs were borne by the concessionaire.

24. Mr. Cassidy—Inquiry of the ministry: What was the total amount paid as earnings to the Premier's chauffeur for the fiscal years 1973-1974 to the present? For each of these years, what amount was paid for this chauffeur as: (a) basic salary; (b) overtime payments; (c) clothing allowance; (d) meal allowance; (e) other allowances; (f) expenses? Tabled April 4, 1977.

Answer by the Office of the Premier:

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
					Other (Accommoda- tion, motels, etc.)	Expenses (Toll charges, ferry fares, gas purchases, gratuities)
Fiscal year	Salary	Overtime	Clothing	Meals		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1973-74	12,351.96	Nil	413.02	809.78	Nil	57.33
1974-75	14,256.61	Nil	374.50	941.90	109.30	46.75
1975-76	15,369.85	Nil	723.75	969.35	274.96	67.00
1976-77	18,224.30	Nil	278.20	925.93	462.95	130.47

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Wells, Hon. T. L.; Minister of Education (Scarborough North PC)
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